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COLONIAL REPORTS

Nyasaland 1955



LONDON

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1956

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NYASALAND
PROTECTORATE

Report for the year
1955

L O N D O N

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1956

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PART I

Review of 1955

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE has seen the introduction of an amended Constitution for the Protectorate. In June the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced a revised Constitution for Nyasaland, in which elections are to be held for the first time to return the non-African Members of the Legislative Council. The number of African Members has been increased from three to five and these will be returned by the African Provincial Councils.

The Legislative Council Ordinance (No. 25 of 1955), prescribes the membership of the new Council as—the Governor as President, three *ex officio* Members, eight Official Members, six non-African and five African Unofficials. The first elections under the new Constitution will take place in March, 1956. No change has been made in the membership of the Executive Council.

In April the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr. Fisher, P.C., G.C.V.O., accompanied by Mrs. Fisher, visited the Protectorate. He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury to make such a visit. Dr. Fisher spent seven days visiting various centres in Nyasaland before continuing his journey to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, where he inaugurated the new Central African Province of the Anglican Church and installed the first Archbishop of Central Africa.

Blantyre, the oldest township in the country, celebrated its diamond jubilee as a municipality on the 12th August. The settlement of 1895, with its 17 European farmers and traders, 100 acres and £40 in the cash box, is a far cry from the Blantyre of 1955 with a European and Asian population of approximately 2,000, an area of 4,000 acres and property estimated at £3,750,000.

Despite adverse weather conditions, affecting tobacco and cotton production, food supplies were more than adequate to meet all needs and record crops of groundnuts, tea, rice, wheat and pulses were marketed.

African trust land produce was handled by the statutory marketing boards which, in 1955, bought 70,177 short tons of produce for which they paid an aggregate of £1,459,703 to the producers. These boards are powerful instruments of Government's policy, not only because of their direct influence on markets and prices and on the extent and balance of crop production, but also because their surplus balances are used to promote development in rural areas. Storage accommodation for 40,000 tons of bagged produce is now available for the three boards.

A surplus of 44,807 tons of maize was purchased by the Produce Marketing Board at a price of 1d per lb., which was more than adequate to meet local needs and to provide some 28,000 tons as a reserve against a possible famine. As soon as the danger of any famine is averted the surplus reserve will be exported but, with the slump in world prices and the expense of road and rail haulage to the coast, this maize can only be sold at a loss. In order to avoid a recurrence of this situation the aim in future will be to produce sufficient maize for local demands and for the necessary safe reserve only.

Favourable weather conditions, resulting in optimum flooding of the paddy fields, coupled with a greater interest in rice growing fostered by the co-operative societies, resulted in a surplus paddy production of 7,202 tons, which is by far the largest crop ever produced in Nyasaland. Unfortunately, this record crop coincided with a general fall in world prices, and, with the exception of a large part of the Grade 1 crop sold within the Federation at a controlled price of £60 per ton for rice, its sale became a problem. Investigations continued into the growing of rice under controlled irrigation on the flooded plain South of Lake Chilwa, but with the current over-production of rice it is doubtful whether the implementation of a major scheme could be justified at the present time.

The increase in groundnut production continued and the Produce Marketing Board purchased 10,321 tons at a price of 3½d per lb., representing a record surplus and an increase of nearly 3,000 tons over the previous record surplus obtained in 1954. Improvements in cultural methods, particularly closer spacing and earlier planting, were responsible for much of the increase. Groundnuts were one of the few crops to maintain a reasonably steady price on world markets and as this crop has a beneficial effect on subsequent crops planted in rotation and is of considerable value as a food crop, every effort is being made to expand its cultivation.

The weather conditions, which were favourable for the rice and tea crops, were unsatisfactory for tobacco growers and resulted in a general decrease in production together with a lower average yield per acre. The season's crop of 28,816,811 lbs. represented a decrease of 10,000,000 lbs. from the 1954 crop. The yield per acre dropped from the previous year's average of 213 lbs. to 155 lbs. Four per cent. of the total number of growers were refused registration in pursuance of the policy of gradually eliminating the inefficient and negligent trust land growers. The number of growers in the Central Province, the main fire-cured producing area, dropped from 54,329 to 42,219. This decrease was largely due to the dissatisfaction of sporadic growers, and those growing under marginal conditions, with the return obtained in 1954 and to their turning in consequence to other crops requiring less effort than tobacco but giving a comparable cash return. However, with the exception of Burley, the price paid per lb. for all types of tobacco grown in the Protectorate increased during the year and resulted in an overall average price per lb. of 21.35d compared with 16.19d in 1954.

Tea growers had one of the best seasons on record, due to the heavy rains and good average prices. Tea exports for the year reached a new record of 17,190,378 lbs. made tea. The high prices at the London auctions in 1954 were maintained during the early part of 1955, culminating in a record price for Nyasaland tea of 86.25d per lb. for a number of chests from one estate. The market steadied at slightly below 40d per lb. in April and stayed at that level until the end of the year. The fine rains also assured the success of new plantings and an increasing acreage of old, poor quality tea was replaced by new plantings. Considerable advances were made in tea research under the guidance of the Tea Research Committee on the old station at Swazi and on the new and larger station at Mimosa.

The failure of the American tung crop and uncertain supply of Chinese tung oil resulted in a slight recovery of tung prices, which rose from an average of £125 per long ton of oil in 1954 to £160 in 1955. Although, following the biennial bearing pattern of tung, the 1954/55 season should have been an "off" season, the favourable heavy rains and increased acreage coming into bearing resulted in a crop of some 900 long tons of oil. The future of this crop, however, remained uncertain and many smaller growers have stopped production, leaving it mainly in the hands of a few large producers.

The acreage of land under cotton increased by 10,500 acres in 1955, and, despite difficult weather conditions, causing delayed flowering and fruiting, which led to a build-up of various pests and diseases, the seed cotton crop of 9,579 tons was the second biggest since 1938. The most alarming feature of the season was the rapid increase in Cotton Stainer in summer crop areas: the effect of this disease on the Lower River area being reflected in the high proportion of second-grade seed cotton purchased. The crop was processed at ginneries situated in the main producing centres and all lint was sold to the Federal Cotton Industries Board at a price fixed in relation to world prices.

A new enterprise was started in the Cholo District where 25 private estates planted over 200 acres of granadillas. The fruit will be purchased by a local firm with a processing plant in Blantyre.

The extension services of the Department of Agriculture made steady progress and simple measures such as early planting, correct spacing, early and thorough weeding, tie-ridging for water and soil conservation are being universally adopted.

Eight first-class and 117 second-class farmers qualified under the Master Farmer Scheme for bonus awards amounting to £2,262. The standard of farming required to qualify for the bonus was high and included full conservation of the land, proper rotation of crops, integration of stock and animal husbandry and timely and correct field operations.

During the year a Land and Agricultural Loans Board was created by Government to encourage agricultural development, with terms of reference similar to the land banks in neighbouring territories. A number of applications was considered and loans were granted to six farmers.

Other assistance schemes, aimed at promoting better farming, included the sale of farm carts, fertilizers and pise moulds at subsidized prices.

Physical protection of the soil, by means of contour or graded bunds, continued and nearly 9,000 miles of bunds were marked during the year. Other conservation measures that received constant attention were gully reclamation, the safe disposal of storm water, the protection of river banks and waterways, the protection of escarpment areas, the regeneration of over-grazed areas and the conservation of water.

Village Land Improvement Schemes, which have as their aim the reorganization of village lands, the allocation of suitable areas to timber and grazing and the rearrangement and conservation of gardens on a permanent conservation pattern, made steady headway. In the Central Province, where most progress was made, 14 schemes were initiated embracing 107 families cultivating 1,106 acres of arable land.

Since 1940, when the training courses for African agricultural field staff were commenced, 238 Instructors have successfully completed their training. Only students with a Standard VI educational qualification are now accepted for the Course and it is intended to raise the entry standard, as soon as sufficient Standard VIII or Standard X candidates come forward from secondary schools. The first of the two-year advanced courses was completed and five out of six students were successful. Future training will take place at the Colby School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science near Lilongwe.

The Rural Farm School at Tuchila, in the Southern Province, continued to run short courses and some 570 persons attended during the season. The policy concentrated on obtaining numbers of people from the same areas, in order that they should give each other mutual encouragement after leaving Tuchila and make it easier for field officers to maintain the enthusiasm and interest engendered at the School. Similar farm schools have now been built at Mbawa in the Northern Province, in collaboration with the Veterinary Department, and at Chitedze in the Central Province.

Agricultural research continued during the year at the research centres. The Bvumbwe Tung and Agricultural Station expanded its work to cover trials with deciduous fruit, coffee and general aspects of mixed farming in one predominantly European area.

The year was favourable for livestock as the rains were prolonged and there was no shortage of grazing in the dry season. Water supplies were good and there was no necessity to close dip tanks because of lack of water as has been done in the past. The annual livestock census again showed a steady increase in the number of cattle, despite the steady drain imposed by the meat requirements of the Southern townships and African consumption. The number of cattle in the Protectorate is approximately 307,000, an increase of 14,000 over 1954, although the small stock population remained relatively static. The number of units of hides and skins exported increased to 46,825 from the 40,384 exported in 1954. Conversely the 2,987 crocodile skins exported showed a reduction of nearly 32 per cent. on the previous year, due in part to the fluctuating state of the markets.

Diagnosis, disease investigation and the production of vaccine continued at the Veterinary Laboratory in Blantyre. The most disturbing feature during the year was the spread of rabies to parts of the country which had hitherto remained comparatively free. 1,700 doses of anti-rabies vaccine were administered and dog control teams were used to combat the spread of the disease in areas where suspected cases were reported.

The cattle kraal (or *khola*) improvement scheme gained impetus in all areas and particularly in the Central Province. The scheme, which is aimed at eradicating the present primitive unhygienic cattle kraals, consists of providing material, skilled assistance and advice to people wishing to improve their cattle kraals. The most noticeable advance during the year was in the Central Province, where 504 roofed timber kraals, 10 brick cattle kraals and 84 wire paddocks were constructed.

The activities of the Forestry Department were further expanded, following the rapid build-up of the Department's staff. The development of intensively-managed softwood/hardwood afforestation areas, based on the conception of the 3,000-acre "afforestation unit" proceeded satisfactorily. Zomba and Dedza forests were photographed from the air with highly satisfactory results and a Colonial Development and Welfare grant has been provided for further air survey of all existing afforestation units and areas for future development.

Very good rains fell during the season and conditions were favourable for planting operations throughout the country. By the end of 1955, 13,518 acres of Government plantations were established, the majority of these being planted with softwood species such as pines, cypresses and Mlanje cedar. These experimental plantations, established by the Department during the past five years, have now begun to show interesting results. Total protection against the widespread and often uncontrolled burning of grass and bush, which occurs annually from July to November, is of necessity limited to plantations where sufficient staff and labour are available, but a system of early burning, introduced in recent years to forestall the fierce late fires and to mitigate the

worst damage, has proved to be most efficacious. In October the patch-work of burnt and unburnt areas on the miles of rolling grasslands of the Vipya and Nyika Plateaux afforded an interesting contrast to the scene in 1953, when uncontrolled fires swept the plateaux from end to end.

Funds were provided and a site chosen, during the year, for the establishment of a Sylvicultural Research Station and a training school.

Game, fish and tsetse control are organized by a single Department. During the year the tendency for the Game Control staff to change the emphasis on the work from game control to game conservation continued. Some effort was devoted to the control of dangerous game but vermin control was left almost entirely in the hands of the cultivators themselves, while the Game Control Officers spent most of the dry season attending to the Reserves. A proper demarcation of the boundaries of Kota-Kota and Mwabvi Reserves was completed and the Lengwe boundaries almost finished.

Commercial fishing activities by African and non-African concerns continued to expand. Difficulty was, however, experienced in the distribution of the catches, particularly during the rains, and in an attempt to combat these difficulties the experimental manufacture of fish meal on a "cottage industry" scale was introduced. The Fisheries Research Team at Nkata Bay concluded the major part of their survey, which has indicated, that although the off-shore deeper waters of the Northern Province do not hold any considerable fish population, there is a considerable unrealized potential in the littoral zone which offers good opportunities for development.

Tsetse fly control work was concentrated on making a survey of the tsetse distribution in the Lower River area, where the persistence of trypanosomiasis would inhibit the major agricultural developments envisaged as a result of the decision to construct the Liwonde Bund as the first stage in the Shire Valley Project. In addition to the intensive survey of the Lower River area, the overall picture of tsetse distribution in the Southern Province was completed during the year.

At the end of 1955, 70 Co-operative Societies were on the Register. During the year six dairy produce and eight rice-growers' societies were registered, while the registrations of one dairy produce and four consumer societies were cancelled. The main field of expansion was in the rice growers' societies. The Kilupula Union in the Northern Province bought a record crop of 2,107 tons of paddy while the two existing rice-growers' primary societies in the Southern Province bought 646 tons of paddy as opposed to 60 tons in 1954. In addition a new Southern Province rice organization, set up near Zomba, bought 865 tons of paddy. Unfortunately, as has been previously explained, world prices declined sharply in July. Ghee production reached the record figure of 46,300 lbs. for the year and it was possible towards the end of the year to arrange a new system for the transport and sale of ghee, which

brought a greatly increased return to the co-operative societies. The Nchenachena and Misuku Coffee Producers' Societies made good progress during the year and the extension of gardens and the planting of new trees has increased considerably. The 1955 crop showed the effect of the plantings of the last three years and by the end of December over 30,000 lbs. of parchment coffee had been bought by the societies in 1955. The transport department of the Northern Co-operative Union at Rumpi provides a transport system over the whole of the Northern Province, which is used extensively, not only by member societies, but also by Government, by trading firms and by local Africans.

In Blantyre the Department of Electrical Services commissioned new plant at the Power Station, including two boilers rated at 28,000 lb. per hour each and one 2,500 kilowatt turbo alternator, thereby increasing the station plant capacity to 4,500 kilowatts. In Zomba the plant was increased by the commissioning of a 300 kilowatt pelton wheel alternator, bringing the total plant capacity to 900 kilowatts. At Lilongwe, 1,700 yards of high tension line and 2,100 yards of low tension line were constructed, while the number of units of electricity sold showed an increase of 100,000 over the previous year. A district plant was installed at Fort Johnston, in December, providing an electricity supply during the evening and daylight hours.

During the financial year 1954/55 £107,313 was spent on the development of water supplies. With the increased development of the Blantyre/Limbe area it was found necessary to approve the extension of the pumping and purification plant, to allow for increased consumption, to 1,000,000 gallons a day. Improvements to the reticulation in Zomba continued. The installation of the new reticulation proceeded satisfactorily and although the new trunk main was not connected by the end of 1955 considerable improvements were effected in certain areas. Designs for new district schemes were completed and advice was given for the design of small outstation schemes throughout the Protectorate.

The geological mapping of the Southern Province continued and further discoveries of vermiculite were made. Much interest was shown in the apatite deposit discovered during 1954 at Tundulu Hill and analyses carried out in London showed that the apatite content was higher than originally reported, being 60 per cent. From the surface to a depth of 300 feet the deposit is estimated to contain some 3,000,000 tons of apatite. Despite satisfactory scientific results from the drilling programme, carried out by a mining exploration company on Chilwa Island, the local organization of the company closed down following a sudden slump in the price of pyrochlore.

The results of a detailed surface examination of the Nkana Coal-field on the Songwe River, in the North of the country, indicate that some 14,000,000 tons of workable coal exist within 500 feet of the surface.

During the year 25 prospecting rights were issued and 14 claims renewed. One exclusive prospecting licence and three mining leases were extant. Ninety-four boreholes, mainly for village water supply, were completed: the average yield for these was 790 gallons per hour, but varied considerably for individual boreholes, rising as high as 3,000 gallons per hour. Forty-four geophysical surveys were carried out for private individuals or estates, and, although a scheme of rebates for farmers on unsuccessful boreholes was introduced early in the year, no claims had been received by the end of the year.

Legislation has been passed, during the year, to provide for a new form of Employment Book, which can only be issued to persons possessing a recognized trade test certificate, or who have been employed in one type of work for not less than three years and who have been in the employ of one employer for not less than a year immediately preceding the application. The intention is to create and encourage a permanent force of reliable and skilled employees to emerge from the present heterogenous and often transitory labour potential.

Recruiting permits were granted to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the Rhodesia Native Labour Supply Commission. It was estimated that 108,237 Africans were engaged in paid employment at the peak period of the year. Of these 12,488 were clerical workers, shop assistants and the like, 14,344 were artisans and the balance of 81,405 were unskilled or semi-skilled labour. In addition to these figures it was estimated that some 12,000, of which the majority were males, were employed as domestic servants. The number of African workers absent from the Protectorate in 1955 was 160,000.

Including private remittances, over £1,000,000 is estimated to have been received in the Protectorate during the year from migrant workers abroad. The number of identity certificates issued for travel abroad during the year was 66,186 compared with 62,381 in 1954.

Five trade unions have been registered under the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance. The Railway African Workers' Trade Union is a comparatively new union registered in 1954, and has not at present fully established itself. The two other African unions cover motor transport workers and non-manual and clerical workers in commercial and professional undertakings, chiefly in Blantyre. None of the workers' organizations can be described as in any way fully representative. Standing Labour Advisory Boards function in each Province and it is their duty to advise Government on such matters as wage rates, conditions of employment and industrial relations. Nine stoppages of work took place in 1955 compared with six in 1954; three of these disputes involved no loss of time.

Internal retail trade continued normally during the year. It was only possible to assess the value of those imports into and those exports from the Protectorate, which were between Nyasaland and places outside the Federal area. For the 12 month period ending 30th

September, 1955, imports amounted to £6,905,838 and exports (including re-exports) amounted to £7,682,985.

The Public Works Department was once again obliged to concentrate a considerable portion of its works capacity on the construction of African and European houses. 427 African quarters were built at various stations and of that number 104 were constructed at the new Soche African Township in the Blantyre/Limbe area. Fourteen European houses, 32 flats in blocks of four and four chalets were built by direct labour. A contract was placed and work started on the new Legislative Council Chamber, Zomba. The extension of bituminous surfaces by contract continued on the road through Mlanje to Portuguese East Africa and on the road from Lilongwe to Salima: the total mileage of main roads with bituminous surfaces in the country is now 145.

Progress in the sphere of African education continued in 1955 and the five year development plan covering the years 1954 to 1959 was further implemented. Following advice, tendered during visits to the Protectorate by the Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and two of his Assistant Advisers, proposals were approved for the expansion of African secondary and technical education. Successful applications for assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund were made during the year, as a result of which preliminary work was undertaken on the expansion of Dedza Secondary School, the building of a new secondary school at Choma in the Northern Province and the establishment of an Artisan Training Centre in the Blantyre/Limbe area. Provision was also made for the building of a Government primary school for the Soche High Density residential area between Blantyre and Limbe.

Eight grant-aided and three unaided junior secondary schools, with a total enrolment of 431, provided education to Standard VIII. Three full secondary schools, of which one is a Government school, provided four-year courses up to the level of the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate. The two non-Government schools were financed by Government, in respect of the difference between their fees revenue and the cost of running the schools, and managed by Boards of Governors on which Government was represented. The total enrolment of the three secondary schools was 317.

The Government Teacher Training Centre, Domasi, continued to concentrate on the training of Higher Grade teachers and at the end of the year there were two streams with an enrolment of 73 undergoing this course. In addition, there were at this Centre three trainees pursuing a two-year post Standard X course and 21 trainees following the English Grade course; the majority of the latter were being trained to staff Local Authority Schools.

The needs of adults and children, who were too old for admission to primary schools, were catered for during the year by mass literacy drives, literature provided by the Joint Publications Bureau of

Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the weekly newspaper "*Msimbi*" issued by the Nyasaland Information Office. In addition there were a number of night schools, three of which received small grants in aid.

The lack of accurate vital statistics in respect of the African population makes it difficult to determine trends. It is, however, evident that the population is increasing annually and at the end of 1955 it was estimated to be 2,560,000. The European population at the end of the year was estimated at 6,300 and the population of non-Africans and non-Europeans at 9,400.

The Nyasaland Police Force, which is organized in three Divisions corresponding to the three Provinces, continued to expand, the establishment was increased to 1,414 and the actual strength at the end of the year was 1,402. Of the 341 recruits in training 219 were posted and only 12 were discharged as unsuitable during training. Two former police posts were reorganized as police districts, in accordance with the general development programme, and in addition, two stations and one police post were built. Two African Sub-Inspectors received training in England, one on the non-gazetted police officers' course at Hendon and the other at the Royal Military School of Music.

The recently established Battley collection of single fingerprints was responsible for nine successful identifications in cases where fingerprints had been found at scenes of crimes. During 1955, 24,583 cases were investigated by the Police. Figures for burglaries and housebreaking showed a considerable increase and the number of cases of all types dealt with by the Police has doubled in five years.

The Lands Section of the Secretariat, with additional staff at its disposal, concerned itself with outstanding applications for leases of African trust and Public land in addition to handling mining and town planning matters. In addition a Lands Adviser was appointed early in the year, and made responsible for advising Government, through the Secretary for African Affairs, on policy for the tenure of both African trust land and other land under African occupation.

The Town Planning Service for Nyasaland is provided by the Chief Town Planning Officer, Southern Rhodesia, and responsibility for its organization and administration rests with the Chief Town Planning Officer, Southern Rhodesia, represented in Blantyre by a resident Town Planning Officer. The Blantyre/Limbe outline planning scheme has been further implemented during 1955 by the preparation of detailed layouts and the demarcation of sites. The year has seen a marked increase in the amount of detailed layout work required, particularly in the Soche High Density Area, where a large Government building programme has started and is expected to continue for some years. Applications for private development in the Blantyre/Limbe area showed a considerable increase over the previous year, amounting

to 482 as against 366 in 1954. Development has taken place in connection with the outline planning schemes at Lilongwe and Mzuzu. In October a Planning area for Zomba was gazetted, a Planning Committee appointed and work on an outline planning scheme commenced.

The work of the Survey Department was again mainly concerned with surveys urgently required in connection with town planning matters and industrial and residential development on Public land, particularly in the Blantyre/Limbe area, where much of the staff was concentrated. Similar work on a smaller scale was also undertaken in Lilongwe. At Mzuzu, the new headquarters of the Northern Province, basic survey work was continued. The total area of land surveyed in townships amounted to 664 acres. In addition, 52,617 acres of land acquired from private estates by Government for African re-settlement and 2,968 acres of leasehold land were surveyed during the year.

Co-ordinates of 55 primary triangulation stations, extending from the Tanganyika border in the North to Chikwawa in the South, which were computed by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys, were published in 1955. The existing local trigonometric systems have been extended in all three Provinces and by the end of the year there were 165 fixed stations in the Southern Province, 13 near Lilongwe in the Central Province and 32 in the area from Nkata Bay to Mzuzu in the Northern Province.

The drawing and reproduction office issued 4,728 copies of plans during the year.

With effect from 1st July, 1954, European information, tourism and photography became a Federal responsibility and the remaining functions of the former Department of Public Relations were assumed by the Nyasaland Information Service. The benefits deriving from this division of responsibility became increasingly evident during 1955 and are reflected in the increased volume of news, which has been made available to the newspapers and broadcast network of the Federation, and the rapidly expanding projection of Nyasaland news and development to neighbouring territories and in the United Kingdom.

The official vernacular newspaper, *Msimbi*, published weekly since 1949, has regained its popularity, and in 1955 the circulation attained was 8,350. An interesting innovation was the establishment of an Advisory Committee during the year to assist and advise the Editor of *Msimbi* in the production and publication of the paper. The weekly information bulletin continued to improve its circulation, which reached a figure of 7,000 copies per week. Nyasaland has no immediate access to the air and material and news for transmission to the African community is telegraphed or airmailed to Lusaka. The recording studio at Zomba is fully equipped with tape recording facilities and it has been possible to extend the arrangements to record news, talks, feature broadcasts, music and plays for inclusion in the

programmes of the Salisbury and Lusaka transmitting stations. Over 500 of these recordings were made during the year. The distribution of films for Africans is undertaken by two Government Information Units, one stationed in Zomba and the other in the Northern Province. During the year 124,318 persons saw films in this way.

African Provincial Councils met regularly during the year. Following the enactment of the Local Government (District Councils) Ordinance in 1953, a number of statutory District Councils have been established throughout the Protectorate. These Councils are constituted by Warrant and are multi-racial in composition. By the end of 1955 10 statutory District Councils were established. In the districts of the Protectorate, where statutory District Councils have not as yet been established, non-statutory District Councils continued to function in their advisory capacity. These Councils will change their form as and when development is sufficiently advanced and the necessary staff and potential members are available for the running of a statutory Council.

Co-operation between Government and Native Authorities during the year was good. On the whole the Native Administrations carry out their many duties to the best of their ability. Much, however, if not all, of the efficiency of each Native Authority still depends on the personal character and ability of the Chief, though the success of those Councils which do not have a Chief has showed that a good Council can be equally efficacious. It must, however, be borne in mind that the loyalty of the people is to the Chief in person, where he is a traditional Chief, rather than to any Council.

The jurisdiction of Native Courts covers the whole country. The practice and procedure of the Courts are regulated in accordance with Native Law and custom, subject to any rules which may be made by the Governor. These Courts continued to be efficient according to the needs of the people, and the very small proportion of appeals from their decisions was a tribute to the fact that they undoubtedly provided what was considered to be satisfactory justice.

The Provincial Headquarters, Northern Province, was transferred at the beginning of the year from Mzimba to Mzuzu, thus providing a more central headquarters within easy reach of three of the four district headquarters.

A District Commissioner has been described as "everything from magistrate to midwife". In many districts, apart from the work of the Administration, his duties include work connected with police, land leases, accounts, judicial functions, labour, education, agriculture, game control, marketing of native produce and public works. In addition, nearly half of every month is spent by administrative officers travelling in their districts, seeing the Chiefs and people, interpreting Government policy and supervising the work of Native Courts and Native Treasuries.

The rate of native tax during 1955 remained at 17s-6d throughout the Protectorate (excluding two small islands in Lake Nyasa where the rate was 10s). Nine shillings of each 17s-6d tax was credited to Native Treasuries. The total amount collected in tax during the year was £578,448, compared with £522,169 in 1954.

The Native Development and Welfare Fund, financed mainly out of surpluses of the African Tobacco Board, the Cotton Marketing Board and the Produce Marketing Board, continued to provide funds for local schemes for the benefit of Africans, which were beyond the resources of the Native Treasuries. Grants were again made largely on the advice of Provincial and District Development Committees for the provision of such amenities as libraries, rest-houses for travellers, community welfare halls, the improvement of communications and for soil and water conservation and agricultural schemes.

£71,280 was provided for the development of the Blantyre/Limbe High Density residential area and £40,000 for land resettlement schemes. In 1955 grants from the fund for schemes of local benefit to the African population were estimated at £21,157 for the Northern Province, £19,337 for the Central Province and £31,037 for the Southern Province. In addition grants made for schemes for the general benefit of Africans in the Protectorate were estimated at £221,137. Loans from the fund were estimated at £32,511.

Continued progress was made during 1955 with the scheme for the resettlement of Africans on estate land acquired by Government. Over 300,000 acres of land were acquired for this purpose between 1948 and 1954 by Government from estate-owners in the Southern Province, for the re-settlement of Africans living in other congested areas. Voluntary movement continued at a high rate on this land and the net increase on the Magomero and Chingale blocks was estimated at 10 per cent., including natural increase; most of the immigrants came from the congested areas of Zomba and Chiradzulu.

As a result of negotiations between Government and owners of certain estates for the sale of land closely occupied by African tenants and also suitable land not required by estate owners for development, agreement was reached during the year for Government to acquire a further 72,000 acres in the Southern Province. These acquisitions reduced the number of African families in that Province, resident on private estates, by 12,000; it also resulted in a further 1,200 families moving voluntarily from private land to land acquired by Government. Negotiations continued with estate-owners in the Southern Province for the acquisition of further land for resettlement purposes.

A list of current development schemes, financed by grants from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, is attached as an Appendix to this Part of the Report, together with a statement showing the revenue accruing from the Fund in 1954/55 and the estimated revenue in 1955/56. The progress made during the year, both on the various departmental schemes and on the individual schemes, is described in the relevant sections of this Report.

GRANTS UNDER THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
WELFARE ACTS

				Actual Revenue 1954/55 £		Estimated Revenue 1955/56 £
<i>(a) Departmental Schemes</i>						
Agriculture D.1550	..	..	..	8,500	..	42,500
Education D.1551	..	..	..	19,250	..	60,535
Forestry D.1552	..	..	..	500	..	—
Water Supplies D.1625	..	..	..	2,625	..	13,125
Veterinary D.1554	..	..	..	2,750	..	14,250
<i>(b) Public Works Schemes</i>						
Nkata Bay-Vipya Road D.1895	..	..	..	3,928	..	5,000
Chileka Airport D.738	..	..	..	168	..	—
Secondary & Technical Education D.1672	..	..	..	12,764	..	525
Lake Port Survey D.1945	..	..	..	1,760	..	—
Purchase of Road Plant D.2085	..	..	..	7,000	..	9,390
Road Construction Organization D.2114	..	..	..	91,275	..	53,115
African Housing D.1391	..	..	..	188,397	..	65,170
Agricultural & Veterinary Training School, D.2093	..	..	..	11,980	..	16,320
Veterinary Training Centres D.2047	..	..	..	1,158	..	—
* African Housing on Outstations D.2569	..	..	..	—	..	34,680
* Education D.2572	..	..	..	—	..	—
(i) Choma Secondary School	..	..	..	—	..	18,975
(ii) Soche Primary School	..	..	..	—	..	8,007
(iii) Artisans Training Centre	..	..	..	—	..	23,573
(iv) Dedza Secondary School	..	..	..	—	..	20,831
‡ * <i>Road Reconstruction</i>						
(i) Chitala Benga Road	..	..	..	—	..	59,454
(ii) Lower River Roads	..	..	..	—	..	54,300
(iii) Sombani/Palombe/Fundis Cross Road	..	..	..	—	..	45,250
(iv) Crop Extraction Roads, Central Province	..	..	..	—	..	5,701
(v) Aerodrome Road, Zomba	..	..	..	—	..	12,217
(vi) General Improvements, Provinces	..	..	..	—	..	40,408
(vii) Nkata Bay/Vipya Road—Plant	..	..	..	—	..	21,448
* European Housing D. 2595	..	..	..	—	..	33,900
Soche Welfare Centre D. 2599	..	..	..	—	..	10,000
<i>(c) Central Fund Schemes</i>						
Lilongwe Experimental Station R.157	..	..	..	9,144	..	17,486
‡ Lilongwe Experimental Station Extension Scheme				—	..	13,133
Stored Products Research R.437	..	..	..	248	..	—
Tsetse Research R.307	..	..	..	891	..	—
Geological Survey D.1191	..	..	..	3	..	—
Mineralogical Survey D.878	..	..	..	9,646	..	14,022
Silvicultural Research R.609	..	..	..	140	..	11,263
<i>(d) Forestry Schemes</i>						
Forestry Equipment D.1900	..	..	..	3,433	..	4,206
Forestry Depot, Blantyre D.1944	..	..	..	3,177	..	—
Mudi Dam Afforestation D.1899	..	..	..	3,800	..	6,314
Forestry Utilization D.2343	..	..	..	15,350	..	64,009

GRANTS UNDER THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
WELFARE ACT—(Cont'd.)

			<i>Actual Revenue 1954/55 £</i>		<i>Estimated Revenue 1954/55 £</i>
* Forestry D.2571					
(i) Forestry Training School	..	..	—	..	4,500
(ii) Aerial Surveys ..	..	..	—	..	9,000
(iii) Road Construction ..	..	..	—	..	5,400
(iv) Communications (Fire Protection)	..	..	—	..	900
(e) <i>Miscellaneous Schemes</i>					
Shire Valley Project Survey D.1702	..	..	85	..	—
Junior Trade Training School D.2084	..	..	3,287	..	8,691
* Land Acquisition D.2570 ..	..	..	—	..	100,000
Rural Water Supplies D.2568	..	..	—	..	17,876
Domasi Community Development D.846	..	..	6,058	..	—

In addition to the above, one scheme financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds is administered by Northern Rhodesia on behalf of both territories. This covers the JOINT FISHERIES RESEARCH ORGANIZATION.

* Schemes carry a local contribution.

† Schemes not yet formally approved.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The following functions, previously administered by the Nyasaland Government, have been assumed by the Federal Government and are administered by the Federal Ministries listed below. Detailed reference to the administration of these functions will be contained in the Annual Reports of the Ministries concerned.

Ministry of Health	—Medical Services.
Ministry of Posts	—Posts and Telecommunications.
Ministry of External Affairs	—External Affairs.
Ministry of Education	—All higher education and non-African Primary and Secondary education.
Ministry of Home Affairs	—Prisons, Federal Information, Films, Tourism, Immigration, Status of Aliens, Deportation, Archives.
Ministry of Transport and Communications	—Railways, Inter-territorial roads, Civil Aviation, Meteorology.
Ministry of Defence	—Military forces.
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	—Import and Export Control, Price Control, Federal Public Buildings, Shire Valley Project.
Ministry of Finance	—Customs, Income Tax, Currency, Coinage and Legal Tender, Loans, Exchange Control, Post Office Savings Bank, Audit.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE last census of the African population in Nyasaland was taken in 1945. All the fieldwork was of necessity done by African enumerators with little supervision and the census was not claimed to be any more than a useful and fairly accurate estimate of the African population. Previous censuses were taken in 1921, 1926 and 1931 while annual population estimates, largely based on the tax registers, are available dating back to 1901. The substantial fluctuations, which occur from year to year, indicate that these annual estimates are not very reliable.

A system of recording simple vital statistics was introduced in 1947. It is at present restricted to recording African births and deaths district by district. Individual details are not recorded, nor are any certificates issued. Reliance has to be placed on the African village headman whose duty it is to collect such information in respect of his village for transmission to the Native Authority and on occasion the system breaks down. The registration of African customary marriages is carried out in almost all parts of the Protectorate, but the data available is by no means complete, while details of the birth, death and infant mortality rates are unavailable and likely to remain so for some time to come.

In the conditions outlined above it is only possible to speak in general terms of African population trends. The population is increasing steadily, being estimated at the end of 1955 to be 2,560,000, compared with 2,470,000 at the end of 1954. Between 1921 and 1931 the African population had increased by one-third and the 1945 census figures showed an increase of rather more than one-third on the 1931 figures. Thus the estimated African population had very nearly doubled in 25 years, but a proportion of this increase must be attributed to immigration into the Southern Province from Portuguese East Africa.

The number of men estimated to be absent from the Protectorate during 1955 was 160,000, which was the same as in 1954, the majority being in Southern Rhodesia. A large percentage of these absentees, particularly those in the Rhodesias, return regularly to their homes and remain in close touch with Nyasaland.

The European and Asian populations continue to increase. Details of European births and deaths have been kept since 1901, and since 1920 immigration and emigration statistics in respect of Europeans and Asians have been compiled. Registration of all non-African births and deaths is compulsory. The relatively small size of the European population enables accurate estimates to be made. The

European population remained fairly static immediately before and during the war. In 1931 it stood at 1,975 and in 1945 at 1,948. Since the war, the population has increased with comparative rapidity, owing to the considerable expansion of the activities of both Government and commercial concerns and to the re-establishment of staffs depleted during the war years. The implementation of the Development Plan alone increased Government's establishment of European personnel by 504 in the six post-war years and in 1955 the European population was estimated at 6,300. The figure for 1954 was 5,200. It is not possible to estimate the numbers in the various age groups, but the European population is a relatively young one. Retirement elsewhere after service in the Protectorate is still the rule, although there are exceptions.

The population of persons other than Africans or Europeans, maintaining a consistently high birthrate, increased from an estimated 1,573 in 1931 to 2,804 in 1945 and in 1955 was estimated to be 9,400. The 1954 estimate was 8,600. By occupation the majority of the men are traders and about one-third are now Nyasaland born.

Chapter 2

Occupations, Wages and Labour Organization

EMPLOYMENT

THE principal industries in Nyasaland are tea growing and manufacture, tobacco growing, grading and packing, tung production, building and general contracting, transport, light engineering, wholesale and retail trading and general farming.

The majority of Nyasaland Africans are engaged in the cultivation of their own village gardens, where they grow most, if not all, of their own and their family's food requirements. Some of them grow large quantities of marketable produce for sale to those in employment in industry, but the majority produce sufficient only for their own requirements, plus a small surplus for sale to provide money for a particular purpose; many, however, are engaged in tobacco and cotton production on African trust land, which is bought by the Produce Marketing Board at fixed prices having due regard to the expenses of running the marketing organization.

A large number take up paid employment, probably nearly 100,000 at times of peak employment and another 50,000 or more migrate each year to seek employment in neighbouring territories where wages are higher than in Nyasaland.

There is no clear-cut line of demarcation between the peasant and the worker and it can be stated that at present no class of unskilled workers exists which depends solely upon wage-earning for its livelihood. After a short period of work for an employer, either in Nyasaland or abroad, the average Nyasa returns to cultivate his own garden land. While this factor is of importance as a buffer against unemployment, it operates conversely to produce a very heavy turn-over in labour with few remaining long enough in one job to acquire skill or training. A further result is that each year, at the beginning of the rains when Africans must prepare their own gardens, there is a severe shortage of labour, handicapping labour-employing estates, particularly the tea estates and tobacco planters. The remedy is being sought by encouraging employers to build up permanent labour forces attached to the estate by the provision of good housing, amenities and wages. There are in this context many difficulties to be overcome, particularly the reluctance of the African to abandon his garden land. With the rapidly increasing population, however, and the consequent growing pressure on arable land economic forces will inevitably accelerate the divorce.

The following estimate of the number of Africans in paid employment, at the peak period is based upon annual returns made by employers of 10 or more workers:—

<i>Industry</i>							<i>Numbers employed</i>
Agricultural undertakings (Tea, Tobacco, Tung estates and general farming)							59,683
Fishing	..	..	..	..	..	..	537
Building, Brickmaking and Contracting	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,206
Trading	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,826
Light Industry	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,318
Transport	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,652
Government and Local Government services	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,520
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,495
TOTAL							<u>108,237</u>

- NOTES.—(i) Women are rarely employed, except in agricultural undertakings where small numbers are engaged as casual labour. Young people—mainly boys between 14 and 18 years of age—form, however, a substantial proportion of agricultural labour forces, probably amounting to about 20 per cent.
- (ii) Transport includes railways, roads and Lake transport.
- (iii) Of the total number shown as employed for wages it is estimated that 12,488 are clerical workers, shop assistants and the like, 14,344 are artisans and the balance of about 81,405 are unskilled and semi-skilled labour.
- (iv) Another large group known to be in paid employment, but not included in above Table, is that of domestic servants, mostly males, who are estimated at about 12,000.

No statistics are available of the numbers self-employed in subsistence agriculture, but the approximate numbers engaged during 1955 in tobacco and cotton production on African trust land were 50,158 and 44,528 respectively. A further 12,218 and 2,897 produced tobacco and cotton as tenants on private estates.

Mainly an agricultural territory the demand for labour is largely seasonal but, since the various seasons for planting, processing of crops, grading of tobacco, constructional works and the like, are spread over the year, there is no dead season in respect of employment and work is always available. The general shortage of skilled and semi-skilled labour continues, affecting particularly the building and constructional trades.

In the conditions described it will be seen that unemployment is not the problem that it is in more industrialized countries and that the average Nyasaland African is not in any real sense a wage-earner. Limited cash requirements mean that the usual economic incentives do not operate fully in Nyasaland. Moreover, the African places a high value on leisure; he is inclined to work sporadically when it suits him and for limited purposes of his own. Incentives to work locally are not

high; consumer goods at a price within his reach are often in short supply; family ties are demanding and, casual work being everywhere plentiful, there remains little inducement to engage in permanent employment with its demands of efficiency and regular attendance. The poor diet of the African worker and the lack of a responsible African supervisory class are further obstacles to obtaining an efficient labour force.

MIGRANT LABOUR

Wage rates in Nyasaland are low, compared with those current in the more highly industrialized countries of Southern and Northern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa. There, constantly expanding mining and other industries need more and more labour and can afford, and are prepared to pay, high wages to attract it. In an effort to counteract the attraction of higher wages abroad and to obtain an adequate supply of labour for their needs, local employers are paying increasing attention to improved amenities for their labour. These usually take the form of better housing, the provision of free mid-day meals for employees, recreational facilities, bonuses for regular attendance and in many cases wages higher than the legal minimum.

Nyasaland has for many years contributed substantially to the labour forces in adjoining territories and in the Union of South Africa. Away from home the Nyasa has an excellent reputation and a range of employment extending from unskilled labour to the highest posts which local conditions permit.

So long as the level of wages offering in other countries remains higher than that prevailing at home, the more ambitious and energetic African will always be tempted to seek employment abroad. Away from home his family and tribal commitments are not nearly so heavy and and he is able to save more money. Nor can the inevitable lure of strange countries be left out of account.

Tending to offset to some extent the outward flow of labour is the growing demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers within the Protectorate, leading to an increase in wage rates. Also to be taken into account are the greater opportunities for remunerative employment at home resulting from the various development schemes, and the improved conditions and increased training facilities now provided by a number of Territorial and Federal Government Departments, notably the Police, Prisons, Medical, Posts and Telecommunications, Agriculture and Forestry Departments.

Large scale migration, even if only temporary, eventually results in the disintegration of family life and in a decaying tribal structure; and once traditional social sanctions disappear they are difficult to replace. Out of an approximate 435,000 able-bodied males it is estimated that over 160,000 were absent from the Protectorate in 1955. Of this total 100,000 were estimated to be in Southern Rhodesia, 42,000 in the Union of South Africa, 10,000 in Northern Rhodesia and some 8,000 in other territories.

The protection of the worker contracted for work abroad and the interests of his family are secured by a system of carefully controlled recruitment. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is the only organization permitted to recruit Nyasalanders for work in South Africa. The Association engages labour for employment on the Rand and Orange Free State gold mines and during 1955 was allowed a quota of 12,600 recruits. This quota was fully taken up in 1955. In 1954, 9,844 were recruited.

Apart from one company, which is permitted to recruit small numbers of Nyasas for short seasonal employment, recruitment for work in Southern Rhodesia is in the hands of the Rhodesia Native Labour Supply Commission. During 1955 the Commission was allowed a quota of 10,000 recruits of whom 7,479 were actually engaged during the year, compared with 6,504 in 1954.

Both the above organizations recruit under a Governor's Permit the renewal of which is sought annually. Their quotas of recruits and the areas from which these recruits may be taken are determined by factors which include local labour requirements and the local food supply situation. The planting season is normally a close season for recruiting. Recruits leave the Protectorate after medical examination and attestation under a contract which provides, *inter alia*, for deferred pay and family remittances while the worker is away and for his repatriation to the place of engagement on completion of his contract.

Although the number of labourers proceeding abroad under contract is large, the majority of migrant workers prefer to go uncovenanted. The greatest number of these migrants go to Southern Rhodesia, for the Nyasa is a prohibited immigrant into the Union of South Africa, unless he is recruited for work in the gold mines.

The Migrant Labour Agreement, concluded between the Central African territories in 1947 in order to protect the interests of those who proceed abroad uncontrolled, has continued to operate satisfactorily. The main purpose of the Agreement is to mitigate, where possible, the economic and social evils which attend large scale migration. Under its provisions the migrant worker, unless he is accompanied by his family, has to return home after two years abroad, and a monthly deduction has to be made from his wage. Part of this is paid back to him on his return in the form of deferred pay and part remitted by his employer to his home district, where it is paid over to dependents nominated by him. Provision is also made for free transport to Southern Rhodesia and back to Nyasaland on repatriation. In order to avoid excessive disintegration of the family, and the difficulties experienced by unsupported women and children who have to fend for themselves while their menfolk are away, migrant labourers are encouraged either to take their families with them to the Rhodesias or to send for them when they themselves are established in their work. In such a case the worker is not bound by the two-year limit, and increasing numbers of families are being reunited in this way.

The numbers of employers abroad who make the necessary deductions and then forward the remittances continue to increase annually. In consequence the family remittances which came back to Nyasaland in 1955 showed a corresponding increase. It is estimated that, including private remittances, over £1,000,000 was received in the Protectorate during the year from migrant workers abroad.

For the purpose of establishing his identity no African may legally leave the Protectorate without an identity certificate. Before endorsing such a certificate for travel abroad, the District Commissioner or other authorized issuing officer must be satisfied that the applicant is not leaving the Protectorate to evade satisfaction of just debts or other legal obligations. These latter often include Native Authority Orders to plant gardens and to make provision for dependents. The issuing officer must also be satisfied that the applicant has normally resided in the Protectorate for a continuous period of not less than six months prior to his application, unless he has merely returned home on leave and has a certificate that he is going back to assured employment.

The number of identity certificates issued annually for travel abroad remained fairly constant for several years prior to 1950, but since that date migration has increased sharply and in particular to Southern Rhodesia. This is shown by the following figures:

<i>Country of Destination</i>	<i>Average</i>					
	1946—50	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Southern Rhodesia ..	22,853	30,235	41,289	39,975	45,797	46,072
Northern Rhodesia ..	1,309	2,882	2,971	3,555	5,595	5,624
South Africa ..	9,295	9,307	8,819	7,526	10,772	14,023
Other Territories ..	395	277	392	1,741	217	467
TOTAL	33,852	42,701	53,471	52,797	62,381	66,186

Nyasaland recognizes its responsibility for those of its people who migrate and the Protectorate Government maintains representatives in Johannesburg and Salisbury. During 1955 the work of these officers continued to increase in connection with labour matters. Again they visited many centres of employment in the territories in which they were engaged and provided Government with regular reports on the conditions obtaining there. Perhaps one of the most important of their duties is to act as intermediaries for domestic enquiries by the migrant worker or by his family left in Nyasaland. In this respect they fulfil abroad the functions of a District Commissioner within the Protectorate and supply a much felt need on the part of exiled Nyasas. Another valuable link between the migrant worker and his home is provided by the missionary societies who keep in touch with their adherents and maintain with assistance from public funds three European labour chaplains. A number of former missionaries and Nyasaland civil servants, retired to the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, give voluntary assistance in a similar way. The labour chaplains travel widely, ministering to the spiritual needs of those abroad and doing invaluable work to maintain links with Nyasaland. They also provide

useful information to Government on labour conditions generally. One was recently provided with a cinema projector, as a result of a donation from Native Development and Welfare Funds. When visiting Nyasa congregations at the various centres of employment in Southern Rhodesia, films of Nyasaland and others of an educational and religious nature are exhibited free of charge. The chaplain has stated that this has been a means of bringing him into contact with many thousands of Nyasaland people hitherto unknown to him and has proved of immense value in affording such expatriates with a link with their home-land.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Wages in general were increased in 1953, following the introduction of the Government salary revision scheme, affecting clerks, artisans and subordinate employees whose salaries were increased by between 50 and 100 per cent., and also following the application of minimum wage orders, made by the Governor in Council on the advice of the Provincial Labour Advisory Boards, affecting unskilled workers in rural and urban areas. The year 1955 continued to be a period of consolidation and Labour Department staff were engaged on the inspection of wages registered and the enforcement of the new rates. Salaries of Government African employees now range as follows:—

Subordinate employees

(Messengers, Caretakers, etc.)	..	..	..	£27 to £118 per annum
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<i>Clerical Workers</i>	..	..	..	£72 to £375 per annum
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Learners	..	..	..	£60 per annum
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Technical employees

(Artisans and Technicians)	..	..	..	£72 to £375 per annum
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Learners	..	..	..	£36 to £66 per annum
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Executive Staff

(Assistants, Inspectors, etc.)	..	..	..	£252 to £510 per annum
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Higher Appointments

(School Masters, etc.)	..	..	..	£380 to £940 per annum
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In addition a cost of living allowance is paid amounting at present to approximately 10 per cent of salary. Those occupying Government quarters are required to pay rent at rates varying from 1/48th to 1/16th of salary.

Similar rates are paid by private employers to employees of corresponding calibre. A general revision of salaries for Government staff was, however, under consideration towards the end of the year.

For unskilled workers the legal minimum wage rates are now 1s per day in rural areas and 1s-4d per day in townships. If the employer supplies rations adequate for the worker's whole daily food needs, he is entitled to deduct 5d a day in the townships or in other areas 3d per day. If he supplies a cooked midday meal on every working day he is entitled to deduct 2d per day in the townships or 1½d per day in other areas. In practice although many employers do supply cooked midday meals these are invariably provided free, since they prefer to regard such meals as incentives to work and regular attendance.

The maximum working week is 48 hours, but this again is seldom required by employers. In the case of manual workers work in excess of eight hours, multiplied by the number of working days in the normal period of the contract, *i.e.*, 208 hours in the case of a 26 day ticket contract, is defined as "overtime", and must be paid for at not less than one and a half times the basic cash wage. Work on Sundays, gazetted public holidays or on days which by the custom of any occupation or undertaking are observed as days of rest in lieu of Sundays or public holidays, must be paid for at double the basic rates.

Wages of agricultural workers are usually paid by the 30 day ticket, *i.e.*, after 30 days work has been completed. A weekly cash advance is given for the purpose of buying food, unless rations are provided. In the townships unskilled and semi-skilled labour is usually paid at the end of each month for the number of days worked. In their case also weekly advances are normally given. Skilled and clerical workers are often given a monthly salary. A few employers have recently introduced the system of weekly payment of wages, and this development is being encouraged.

Typical wage rates of semi-skilled and skilled workers, and others above the minimum level are:—

Unskilled employees	..	..	..	1s-4d	to 1s-11½d	per day
Semi-skilled employees	..	..	..	1s-5d	to 4s-6d	per day
Skilled employees	..	..	..	1s-9d	to 6s-9d	per day
Capitaos (Overseers and Foremen)	..	..	..	2s-9½d	to 16s	per day
Drivers	..	..	..	3s-6d	to 5s-2d	per day
Clerical Workers	..	..	..	1s-4d	to 5s-8d	per day

Amongst agricultural workers and unskilled workers in general it is becoming increasingly common for employers to offer a weekly bonus for regular attendance at work.

It is obligatory for employers to provide housing for any employee who is unable to return home at the end of his day's work. Much of the housing provided until recently consisted of wattle and daub buildings with grass roofs. It is now becoming more widely recognized, however, that not only is such housing uneconomic, but that modern and comfortable housing must be provided which will attract a permanent labour force. Advice and encouragement have been given by the Labour Department, and many of the more progressive employers are now erecting modern permanent buildings, while there is a tremendous backlog to be made up, it is encouraging to report that most of the tea estates in the Southern Province are extending and improving their African housing and that an extensive housing scheme has been undertaken by one of the largest estates in the Cholo area. The Nyasaland Railways continue to expand their housing estate at Limbe each year. The outstanding achievement is, however, a model village now almost completed, belonging to the Imperial Tobacco Company near Limbe. When fully completed this planned village will represent one of the finest African housing schemes in Southern Africa. In the Central and Northern Provinces, except in the case of the Colonial Development Corporation and Government, little progress has been made to date.

Government and the local authorities have also given earnest consideration to the housing problem. In the major townships sufficient land has been made available for high density housing areas, and housing is now becoming available. In these areas a scheme has been put into operation whereby loans may be granted to individual Africans towards the cost of building their own houses from their own savings and earnings.

The wages of domestic servants have tended to rise in sympathy with the increase in unskilled labour rates. Junior grades, who are often juveniles, range in pay between 17s-6d and 30s per month, while senior grades are paid between £2 and £5 per month. In addition, weekly food allowances are paid ranging from 2s to 3s-6d per week. Free quarters, uniforms and fuel for cooking purposes are also provided.

COST OF LIVING

Adequate statistical machinery is not available for the compilation of price indices. Such indices would, in any case be misleading when applied to the cost of African foodstuffs, owing to the great variety of units and measures used in inter-African sales. Most commodities are sold by "penny worths" in the African markets, and the amount given varies according to the harvest and the seller's generosity, rather than because of any variation in world prices. Sample prices of some of the foodstuffs during 1955 were:—

	<i>Country Markets</i>	<i>Township Markets</i>
Meat	9d/10d per lb.	1s/1s-3d per lb.
Fish	6d/1s each	6d/1s each
Eggs	1s per dozen	2s per dozen
Milk (condensed) ..	1s-10d per tin	2s per tin
Bread	8d/1s per loaf	8d/1s per loaf
Sugar	9d per lb.	8d/9d per lb.
Tea	4s-6d per lb.	4s-6d per lb.
Beans	3d/4d per lb.	4d/5d per lb.
Maize flour	1½d/2d per lb.	2½d/3d per lb.
Rice	7½d/9d per lb.	8d/10d per lb.

The cost of living allowance paid by Government to African members of the Civil Service ranges from 10 to 13 per cent. of basic salary.

Wages of other employees of Government, and of all employees in private industry are inclusive, and the rise in the cost of living has been allowed for in the recent wage increases referred to earlier. As the African worker is often self-sufficient as regards basic foodstuffs, and in addition normally has a surplus which he sells, it is difficult to assess, with any degree of accuracy, the effect upon his cost of living of increases in the prices of the agricultural commodities which form the bulk of his diet.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

During 1955 the field staff of the Department was increased by one Labour Officer, two Labour Inspectors, five clerks and four messengers. The increase in staff enabled more frequent and closer inspections particularly of the smaller employers. The headquarters of the Department is at Zomba, and Provincial Labour Officers are posted at Blantyre in the Southern Province, and Lilongwe in the Central Province. Two officers of the Department are stationed at Salisbury and Johannesburg, where their duties are to look after the interests of Nyasaland migrant labour in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa.

District Labour Offices are maintained at all District and Sub-District headquarters. These offices are staffed by clerks of the Labour Department and are supervised by Labour Assistants. The duties of the Labour Inspectors include, in addition to their normal inspection duties, the inspection and attestation of persons recruited for work outside the Protectorate; during the year Labour Assistants have also been appointed attesting officers. At the District Labour Offices outside the major employment centres the main duties of the staff are the preparation of travel documents for migrant workers, the preparation of statistics, and the safe-custody and payment of family remittances and deferred pay under the Migrant Labour Work-book Scheme. The Labour Assistants, besides their supervisory duties, also carry out inspection duties, mainly in connection with minor employers.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As has been stated earlier, agricultural or semi-agricultural pursuits absorb the great majority of Nyasaland's unskilled labour force. Only a small proportion of the total are dependent solely on their wages. If their work or their treatment is not to their liking they return to their villages or move on elsewhere; there is no lack of opportunity for the worker, whether skilled or unskilled, since demand greatly exceeds supply. Under these conditions there is little incentive to trade-unionism and it is only in the relatively few non-agricultural undertakings that any inclination on the part of labour to organize itself is apparent.

Legal machinery for the settlement of disputes is provided by the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Settlement) Ordinance enacted during 1952. This provides for conciliation by the Labour Department in the event of trade disputes arising. Should this fail, provision is made for arbitration, voluntary in the case of ordinary trade disputes, compulsory in the case of certain services scheduled as essential. Strikes or lockouts in such essential services are illegal.

Five trade unions are registered under the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance. These are:—

- (i) The Nyasaland African Motor Transport Workers' Union, registered in April, 1949;

(ii) The Nyasaland Employers' Association (formerly known as the Nyasaland Employers' (Motor Transport and Traders Association) registered in August, 1949, with an approximate membership of 25;

(iii) The Nyasaland Railways Asian Union, registered in June, 1950, with an approximate membership of 110;

(iv) The Commercial African Employees' Trade Union, registered in September, 1952, with an approximate membership of 50;

(v) The Nyasaland Railways African Workers' Union registered in September, 1954, with an approximate membership of 100.

The Nyasaland Employers' Association is a general trade union of employers, but divided into sections representing the various industries.

The Railways African Workers' Trade Union is a comparatively new union registered in 1954, and has not at present fully established itself. The two other African unions cover motor transport workers and non-manual and clerical workers in commercial and professional undertakings, chiefly in Blantyre. None of the workers' organizations can be described as in anyway fully representative. The majority of workers are still unorganized, thus it has not as yet been possible to set up formal machinery between employers and workers for collective bargaining and negotiation. Industrial relations, however, have continued to be generally good.

To provide opportunities for the ventilation of any grievances that may arise and to try to infuse into the workers some personal interest in their affairs, some of the more progressive employers have established works committees. These are serving a useful purpose. Encouragement to form such committees is given by the Labour Department and the system has been adopted by the Nyasaland Railways, Imperial Tobacco Company and such Government Departments as the Public Works, Post and Telecommunications and Printing Departments. The African Civil Servants' Association negotiates with Government on matters affecting the conditions of the African Civil Service and the European and Asian Civil Servants' Associations negotiate on matters affecting European and Asian Civil Servants.

Standing Labour Advisory Boards function in each Province. Membership of the Boards includes representatives of Government, of employers and of African labour. All Provincial labour matters, including wage rates, conditions of employment and industrial relations come within their purview and it is their duty to advise Government on such matters. They also consider and advise on any matters concerning labour, including existing and proposed legislation, which may be referred to **them** by Government or by the Commissioner for Labour.

Thus machinery exists for the settlement of industrial disputes although as yet there has been no dispute of any great consequence. If the Nyasaland worker is dissatisfied with his pay or treatment he is

after all in the position of being able to move elsewhere in the certainty of finding other work. Nine stoppages of work took place in 1955 compared with six in 1954; three of the disputes involved no loss of time.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Three Ordinances affecting labour were enacted during the year. An Ordinance entitled the African Employment (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955, No. 12 of 1955, was introduced to permit the making of contracts of apprenticeship for a period of seven years instead of five years. A further amendment to the African Employment Ordinance (No. 21 of 1955) was introduced to permit deductions from wages in respect of agreements entered into by employees wishing to purchase houses from their employers, and also, to permit the Commissioner for Labour to authorize any officer in the Labour Department to exercise such of the powers vested in Labour Officers and District Commissioners by the principal Ordinance as he may think fit. The latter provision enables the Commissioner for Labour to authorize Labour Inspectors and Labour Assistants to visit places of employment for the purpose of inspecting conditions of employment and to ensure that proper records of wage payments are maintained and also that the minimum Wage Regulations are being observed.

The third Ordinance enacted during the year (No. 22 of 1955) amended the Wages and Conditions of Employment Ordinance so that deductions authorized under the African Employment Ordinance would not be invalid under the Wages and Conditions of Employment Ordinance.

As regards subsidiary legislation, the most important was the publication at the end of the year of rules implementing part of a new employment book scheme. Four other notices which were published concerned the restatement of the fees to be paid under the Recruiting Fee Rules, the exemption of members of Her Majesty's armed forces from the necessity of being in possession of Work Books, the period when recruiting for work outside the territory should cease, and the authorization of the Northern Provinces Association to nominate their own member to the Northern Province Labour Advisory Board.

The Employment Book (Scheduled Employee) Rules concern a new form of Employment Book which can only be issued to persons in possession of certain qualifications: the qualifications necessary are:

(i) to have been employed in one trade, profession or type of work for a period of not less than three years, and have been in the employ of one employer for a period of not less than one year, immediately preceding the application; or

(ii) to be in possession of a certificate of such trade test as may be prescribed.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The appointment of an additional Factories Inspector and Surveyor of Ships in 1954 has permitted a wider field of inspection to be covered during the year.

Factory legislation has continued to operate smoothly. The actual number of factories has increased by 46 but many have been extended and additional plant installed with the result that the number of persons employed in the factories has increased and is now estimated at approximately 11,250. The accident rate is low and no more than 23 accidents, only one of a serious nature involving two fatalities, were reported to the Factories Board. In all cases the Board was satisfied that none of the accidents was due to any breach of the Factories Rules by the occupiers of the factories concerned. The requirements of the Factories Board in respect of safety precautions in factories are enforced by two Factories Inspectors. No cases of dermatitis were reported to the Board.

The provisions of the Workman's Compensation Ordinance apply to workmen employed in every form of occupation except that of private domestic service. The number of claims handled by officers of the Labour Department continues to increase each year. This is due to increasing awareness of the legislation rather than to any inordinate increase in the number of accidents.

No serious epidemics occurred amongst the working population. Medical Officers of Health are stationed in most districts and they are always ready when requested to give practical advice to employers regarding such matters as sanitation and housing. Health Inspectors have been appointed by the Blantyre and Limbe local authorities. Minimum standards of housing have been laid down for the townships, and attention is being given to the provision of proper sanitation. All Africans are entitled to free medical treatment at all Federal Government hospitals, health units and dispensaries. Most of the large estates maintain dispensaries of their own, and in addition all employers are required to provide their employees with medical attention during illness, where the illness is caused by the employment.

Housing, provided by employers for their labour, is beginning to improve, and many of the more progressive employers are replacing old-fashioned "labour lines" with modern buildings built in permanent weather-proof materials. Sanitary facilities in factories have again continued to improve.

In the field of welfare, apart from the provision of housing, medical attention and compensation in case of accident, there has been little development. There is no legislation providing for insurance against sickness, old age, premature death or giving unemployment benefits, but a considerable measure of protection is afforded by tribal customs. The care of the aged and sick and of widows and dependent children is still traditionally a family responsibility. The retention of an interest in garden land by practically all African workers is also a bulwark against want. Government and a few of the larger employers operate non-contributory pension schemes for their permanent employees, and a number give gratuities for long service. Tax exemption is granted by Government, either temporarily or for life according to the circumstances of the case, to elderly or infirm Africans who are without means to pay.

VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There is a severe shortage of artisans and craftsmen in Nyasaland, and with the growing demand for qualified men, plans are now in hand for an extension of facilities for technical education and training. A Secondary School with a technical wing existed in Dedza in the Central Province, and a Junior Trade School was opened during 1954 near Blantyre in the Southern Province. It is intended that in the near future a new centre to replace the technical training at Dedza is to be built at Blantyre. Arrangements are also being made to extend assistance to selected Mission Schools providing a course similar to that provided at the Government trade school.

Apart from technical and vocational schools, several Territorial and Federal Government Departments run their own training schemes, which are summarized below:—

<i>Department</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Under training in 1955</i>	<i>Trained in 1955</i>
Agriculture	Instructors.	33	30
	Courses for Chiefs' Councillors, etc.	570	570
	Refresher Courses	286	286
Co-operative Development	Cashiers and scale clerks	20	15
Forestry	Forest Guards	21	21
Government Print ..	Apprentices	33	4
Medical	Medical Aides	66	30
	Medical Assistants	14	4
	Midwives	6	3
	Theatre Assistants	4	4
	Health Assistants	6	6
	Laboratory Assistants	6	6
	Nurses	35	—
	Executive staff	23	23
	Technical staff	44	44
Prisons	Warders	70	70
Surveys	Survey Assistants	9	—
Veterinary	Assistants	15	10

The Police training school continued to operate throughout the year and 473 men received training.

The bulk of the industrial training is, however, provided through the learner system, as operated by the Public Works Department by which trainees work on the actual job under qualified artisans. A number of apprentices were indentured to the Government Printer during 1955 and are undergoing a seven-year apprenticeship.

No form of "training within industry" has yet been developed in the Protectorate.

Chapter 3.

Public Finance and Taxation

GENERAL

THE financial year of the Protectorate now runs from 1st July to 30th June to correspond with the financial year adopted by the Federal Government and the Rhodesias. In order to effect the change from a calendar financial year the 1953 Protectorate Estimates were extended for a period of six months from 1st January, 1954, to 30th June, 1954: the 1953/54 financial period was therefore of 18 months' duration and as a result does not provide a basis for the comparison of revenue and expenditure with that of previous or succeeding financial years.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Comparative total figures are:—

				Revenue £		Expenditure £
1952 Actual	..	..	..	3,949,208	..	3,904,596
1953/54 Actual (18 months)		..	..	7,714,708	..	7,655,463
1954/55 Actual	..	..	..	4,302,542	..	4,231,208
1955/56 Estimate		..	..	5,708,298	..	5,906,577

The main heads of taxation and yields from each are as follows:—

	Actual 1952	18 months Actual 1953/54	Actual 1954/55	Estimate 1955/56
	£	£	£	£
Import duties	865,095	1,168,869	51,947	(a) 61,000
Native Tax	460,640	714,615	527,376	551,658
Income Tax	796,943	(b) 790,445	—	—
Share of Federal Income Tax	—	627,672	1,745,495	1,840,500
Territorial Surcharge on Federal Income Tax	—	—	77,130	160,000
Non-Native Poll Tax	19,556	39,521	21,597	22,000
Estate Duties	46,115	42,340	30,923	35,826
Stamp Duties	10,088	24,304	21,835	20,700
<i>Licences:—</i>				
Arms and ammunition	950	10,501	6,165	6,000
Bicycles	19,452	59,344	67,221	55,000
Game	2,067	4,405	2,841	3,000
Liquor	1,626	2,925	2,460	2,000
Miscellaneous	1,130	1,401	619	800
Motor vehicles	34,659	73,578	47,691	42,000
Trading	30,836	69,723	39,715	38,000

With effect from 1st January, 1954, Customs Import Duties (except duties on imported motor spirit) and Income Tax (except for a territorial income tax surcharge) levied in Nyasaland have been collected for the

account of the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Income Tax Revenue for the first half of 1954 and subsequent financial years consists of the Nyasaland share of Income Tax (6 per cent.) collected throughout the Federation plus the territorial surcharge on the Federal Income Tax.

(a) An amount of £61,000 has been included in the revenue estimates for the 1955/56 financial year in respect of revenue from duty on imported motor spirit, but with effect from 12th August, 1955, this duty has not been payable.

(b) From this amount income tax collections January/March, 1954, amounting to £74,354 were subsequently paid to the Federal Government.

DETAILS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1952/55 AND ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1955/56

REVENUE	Actual 1952	18 months Actual 1953/54	Actual 1954/55	Estimate 1955/56
	£	£	£	£
Customs	1,201,469	1,502,707	51,947	(a) 61,000
Taxes, Licences, etc.—				
Income Tax	796,943	(b) 790,445	—	—
Share of Federal Income Tax	—	627,672	1,745,495	1,840,500
Territorial Surcharge on Federal Tax	—	—	77,130	160,000
Other	632,214	1,053,064	776,650	784,484
Fees of Court, etc.	181,820	2,005,981	34,039	37,900
Posts and Telecommunications	134,271	290,029	—	—
Electrical Services—Reimbursement	17,408	29,980	23,304	53,065
Rents	52,313	93,487	51,455	52,850
Interest	160,301	201,024	204,257	50,497
Miscellaneous	201,122	180,965	32,678	(c) 403,380
Forestry Revenue	—	70,082	74,602	146,650
Reimbursements	—	—	122,206	173,569
Payments for Specific Services	—	—	73,178	80,323
Reimbursements from Federal Government	—	—	306,967	459,573
Payments for services rendered on behalf of Federal Government	—	—	226,534	374,622
Sale of Government Property	—	—	25,841	27,360
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	3,377,861	6,845,436	3,826,283	4,705,773
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants	519,641	804,973	420,940	947,070
Trans-Zambesia Railway Debenture Interest and Redemption	51,706	64,299	55,320	55,455
TOTAL REVENUE	3,949,208	7,714,708	4,302,543	5,708,298

(a) All customs revenue save in respect of duty on motor spirit accrues to the Federal Government, but with effect from 12th August, 1955, duty is no longer payable on motor spirit entering Nyasaland.

(b) From this amount income tax collections January/March, 1954 amounting to £74,354 have subsequently been paid to the Federal Government.

(c) This figure includes a contribution of £350,000 from development reserve.

**DETAILS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1952/55 AND ESTIMATES OF
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1955/56**

EXPENDITURE	Actual 1952	Actual 18 months 1953/54	Actual 1954/55	Estimate 1955/56
	£	£	£	£
Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary ..	358,400	619 169	508,465	804,332
Education	246,449	500,006	(a) 304,067	329,965
Medical	232,586	409,758	(a) —	—
Police and Prisons	175,035	423,148	(a) 293,269	330,916
Post Office	137,474	277,615	(a) —	—
Provincial and District Administration ..	157,189	276,067	203,848	199,058
Public Debt Charges	161,806	348,183	(b) 239,464	284,546
Public Works Department, Public Works Annually Recurrent and Public Works Extraordinary	1,145,251	1,399,340	(a) 1,197,631	2,064,051
Other Services	1,290,406	3,402,177	1,484,464 (a)	1,893,709
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,904,596	7,655,463	4,231,203	5,906,577

(a) European, Asian and higher African Education, Medical Services, Prisons Post Office, Audit, Income Tax, Civil Aviation, Customs and certain inter-territorial roads are now the responsibility of the Federal Government.

(b) Reimbursable by the Federal Government.

Both revenue and expenditure in 1954/55 showed a decrease on the original estimates, which were:—

Revenue .. £5,009,570

Expenditure .. £4,990,025

Since under-expenditure exceeded the shortfall in revenue the estimated surplus of £19,545 was increased to an actual surplus of £71,334. The principal factor accounting for the under-expenditure was the inability of the Department of Public Works to carry out the full Public Works Extraordinary Programme authorized, mainly owing to difficulties over staff recruitment. Under-expenditure on the approved programme of Public Works Extraordinary in 1954/55 amounted to £438,345. Similarly, expenditure on the Public Works Department itself was £98,046 less than expected due to the delays in recruitment of new staff and delays in the delivery of new vehicles and equipment. The balance of the under-expenditure in 1954/55, namely £222,023, was spread fairly evenly over the remaining departments and services.

On the revenue side the shortfall when the actual revenue is compared with the original estimate is £707,028. To the extent of £333,702 this is accounted for by an over-estimate of the amount accruing from Colonial Development and Welfare Grants. In large measure this revenue shortfall is linked with the under-expenditure on the Public Works Extraordinary programme already mentioned. There was also a shortfall of revenue amounting to £123,166 in respect of payments for services rendered to the Federal Government. The Territorial Public Works Department carries out works for the Federal Government on an agency basis and the original estimate of £200,000 for the agency fee was not reached: the final account is yet to be

adjusted in the light of actual expenditure by the Department on behalf of the Federal Government during the year. The balance of the shortfall in revenue, namely £210,536 was largely accounted for by a shortfall of receipts from the Federal Government in respect of the territorial share of federal income tax and by the non-receipt in 1954/55 of contributions from the Mozambique Government in respect of expenditure incurred on the Shire Valley Project survey.

A statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th June, 1955, is included as an appendix to this chapter.

In 1955/56 the estimates of revenue and expenditure are again artificially inflated by the need to make provision on both sides of the estimates for services carried out, against reimbursement, on behalf of the Federal Government. Eliminating such contra entries and also extraordinary expenditure and revenue connected therewith it is estimated that the true ordinary revenue of the Protectorate in 1955/56 will be £3,832,691 and that true ordinary expenditure will amount to £3,754 726—a surplus of £77,965.

PUBLIC DEBT

The Federal Government became responsible for the servicing of the whole of the public debt of the Protectorate as at 23rd October, 1953, in accordance with the recommendations of the Apportionment Commission appointed under the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (Constitution) Order in Council, 1953.

The Public Debt was then as follows:—

	£
Loan from H.M. Government, 1945 for re-loan to Trans-Zambesia Railway	727,095
3% East Africa Guaranteed Loan 1954/74	1,570,000
4½% Development Loan 1971/78	2,060,000
Interest-free Loan from H.M. Government 1952	1,290,000
Expenditure incurred before 23rd October, 1953, in anticipation of raising a loan	581,393
	<u>6,228,488</u>

Expenditure continued after 23rd October, 1953, against advances pending the raising of loans and as at 30th June, 1955, amounted to £261,654. The Public Debt of the Protectorate is expected to stand at approximately £1,200,000 at 30th June, 1956.

NATIVE TAX

A Poll tax is payable by all male Africans resident in Nyasaland over the apparent age of 18 years. It is in no sense a hut tax since no African is liable to pay extra tax in respect of additional residences. Exemption may be granted to the aged and infirm who are without means to pay, and to *bona fide* African visitors in possession of a valid document permitting them to travel, issued in their country of origin, who are not employed or seeking employment in the country and not remaining longer than three continuous months. The Governor possesses certain additional powers of exemption.

The rate of tax, which is variable, is prescribed by the Governor in Council under the Native Tax Ordinance of 1939. In 1955 the rate was 17s-6d throughout the Protectorate (excluding two small islands in Lake Nyasa where the rate was 10s). This rate was the same as that for 1954. Of this 17s-6d tax the Native Treasuries received a share of 9s. The share of tax continued to form the largest single item of the revenue of the treasuries.

Under legislation, introduced in 1951, a defaulter, who has failed to pay tax by the 30th September in any year, is liable after that date to pay such amount in addition to the tax as the Governor in Council may specify. During 1955 the additional amount specified by the Governor in Council was again 7s-6d for the whole Protectorate (except for the two small islands in Lake Nyasa where the additional amount was 5s). Thus, generally speaking, the tax increased automatically to 25s, on 1st October, 1955, in respect of payment for that year.

The tax is collected by African tax collectors, working under the direction of the Native Authorities and under the general control of District Commissioners. The estimated yield for the financial year, 1955/56, is £551,658 comparing with the actual collection of £527,374 for 1954/55.

Income Tax

The Federal Government assumed responsibility for the imposition and collection of taxes on incomes and profits from the 1st April, 1954. Three types of taxation are imposed by the Federal Income Tax Act, 1954, *viz.*:

Income Tax,
Supertax, and
Undistributed Profits Tax.

At the same time Africans, previously exempt from income tax, became liable to pay this tax.

The basic rates of Federal income tax for the assessment year 1954/55 are as follows:—

				Per £1			
				<i>Married Persons</i>	<i>Single Persons</i>		
First	£500	of taxable income		9d	1s-3d	}	6s-3d
Second	£500	„ „ „		1s-3d	2s-0d		
Third	£500	„ „ „		2s-0d	3s-0d		
Fourth	£500	„ „ „		3s-0d	4s-6d		
Fifth	£500	„ „ „		4s-6d	6s-3d		
Over £2,500	„ „ „			6s-3d	6s-3d		

The rebates deductible from Federal income tax are:—

- (i) Married persons .. £37-10s-0d
- (ii) Unmarried persons .. £25-0s-0d
- (iii) Dependent persons .. £10, if maintenance is not less than
£50

- (iv) Children £22-10s-0d for one child, thereafter
£20-0s-0d for each additional
child.
- (v) Insurance premiums .. 2s per £1 of premium or part thereof
(maximum £25).
- (vi) Farmers 30 per cent. of nett income derived
from sale of essential foodstuffs,
livestock and livestock feed with a
maximum of £2,000 in the case of
any individual or company.
- (vii) Blind persons £200.

Supertax

Federal supertax is imposed on individuals, and also on certain classes of companies incorporated outside the Federation after the 31st March, 1953. The following abatements from supertaxable income are allowed:—

Individuals	{ Married persons	..	£3,000.
	{ Single Persons	..	£2,000
Companies		..	Nil

The rates of supertax for both classes of taxpayer after deducting the above abatements are:—

First	£2,000 of the supertaxable amount	..	9d per £1
Second	£2,000 „ „ „ „	..	2s-0d „ „
Thereafter		..	3s-3d „ „

Undistributed Profits Tax

Private companies, and certain public companies, incorporated within the Federation are liable to pay undistributed profits tax. The rates applicable for the assessment year ended 31st March, 1955, are:—

First	£2,000 of undistributed profits	..	1s-6d per £1
Balance of undistributed profits		..	3s-0d per £1

Territorial Surcharge

In addition to the Federal income tax legislation Nyasaland legislation, imposes a Territorial surcharge upon individuals and bodies corporate at the following rates:—

- (i) On resident individuals:—

20 per cent. of the total amount payable as basic Federal tax (income tax and supertax after deduction of rebates).

(ii) On bodies corporate:—

1s-3d in the £ for each £1 of taxable income derived from the Territory.

(e) The following comparative tables give an indication of the level of tax on the income of individuals:—

MARRIED PERSONS (NO CHILDREN)									
		(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)	
<i>Income</i>		<i>Federal Income Tax</i>		<i>Federal Supertax</i>		<i>Nyasaland Territorial Surcharge (on a + b)</i>		<i>Total taxes payable</i>	
£		£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s
Up to	800	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
At	900	..	6 5	..	—	..	1 5	..	7 10
	1,000	..	12 10	..	—	..	2 10	..	15 0
	1,100	..	22 10	..	—	..	4 10	..	27 0
	1,200	..	32 10	..	—	..	6 10	..	39 0
	1,300	..	42 10	..	—	..	8 10	..	51 0
	1,400	..	52 10	..	—	..	10 10	..	63 0
	1,500	..	62 10	..	—	..	12 10	..	75 0
	1,600	..	77 10	..	—	..	15 10	..	93 0
	1,700	..	92 10	..	—	..	18 10	..	111 0
	1,800	..	107 10	..	—	..	21 10	..	129 0
	1,900	..	122 10	..	—	..	24 10	..	147 0
	2,000	..	137 10	..	—	..	27 10	..	165 0
	2,500	..	250 0	..	—	..	50 0	..	300 0
	3,000	..	406 5	..	—	..	81 5	..	487 10
	4,000	..	718 15	..	37 10	..	151 5	..	907 10
	5,000	..	1,031 5	..	75 0	..	221 5	..	1,327 10
	6,000	..	1,343 15	..	175 0	..	303 15	..	1,822 10
	7,000	..	1,656 5	..	275 0	..	386 5	..	2,317 10
For each £1 in excess of £7,000		..	6s-3d	..	3s-3d	1s-10d 4/5d		11s-4d 4/5d	

UNMARRIED PERSONS									
		(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)	
<i>Income</i>		<i>Federal Income Tax</i>		<i>Federal Supertax</i>		<i>Nyasaland Territorial Surcharge (on a + b)</i>		<i>Total taxes payable</i>	
£		£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s
Up to	400	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
At	500	..	6 5	..	—	..	1 5	..	7 10
	600	..	16 5	..	—	..	3 5	..	19 10
	700	..	26 5	..	—	..	5 5	..	31 10
	800	..	36 5	..	—	..	7 5	..	43 10
	900	..	46 5	..	—	..	9 5	..	55 10
	1,000	..	56 5	..	—	..	11 5	..	67 10
	1,100	..	71 5	..	—	..	14 5	..	85 10
	1,200	..	86 5	..	—	..	17 5	..	103 10
	1,300	..	101 5	..	—	..	20 5	..	121 10
	1,400	..	116 5	..	—	..	23 5	..	139 10
	1,500	..	131 5	..	—	..	26 5	..	157 10
	1,600	..	153 15	..	—	..	30 15	..	184 10
	1,700	..	176 5	..	—	..	35 5	..	211 10
	1,800	..	198 15	..	—	..	39 15	..	238 10
	1,900	..	221 5	..	—	..	44 5	..	265 10
	2,000	..	243 15	..	—	..	48 15	..	292 10
	2,500	..	400 0	..	18 15	..	83 15	..	502 10
	3,000	..	556 5	..	37 10	..	118 15	..	712 10
	4,000	..	868 15	..	75 0	..	188 15	..	1,132 10
	5,000	..	1,181 5	..	175 0	..	271 5	..	1,627 10
	6,000	..	1,493 15	..	275 0	..	353 15	..	2,122
For each £ in excess of £6,000		..	6s-3d	..	3s-3d	1s-10d 4/5d		11s-4d 4/5d	

The Federal Constitution provides for the payment to the revenue of the Nyasaland Government of 6 per cent. of the proceeds of taxes on income and profits after deduction of the cost of collection. The estimated revenue from this source in the financial year 1955/56 is £1,840,500.

Non-Native Poll Tax

A non-native poll tax is payable by all non-native males over 18 resident in the Protectorate, except those merely on a temporary visit. The tax is £4 for those resident in the country on 1st January, or those who arrive before 30th June. Those who arrive between 1st July and 31st December pay only £2 in respect of the year of entry. Failure to pay the tax within three months of the date on which it falls due renders the defaulter liable to double payment. The estimated yield from the tax in the financial year 1955/56 is £22,000, as compared with the actual collection in the financial year 1954/55 of £21,596.

Estate Duties

The payment of estate duty in the Protectorate continued in 1955 to be governed by the Estate Duty Ordinance, 1946, as subsequently amended. On a person's death, estate duty is payable under the Ordinance on all property in the Protectorate beneficially owned by the deceased at the time of his death and, if the deceased was domiciled in Nyasaland at that time, on all personal property so owned by the deceased wherever situated. During recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of non-Africans domiciled in Nyasaland and consequently, since the enactment of the Estate Duty Ordinance considerable sums have been collected from the estates of such persons. The Ordinance contains provision for relief against the payment of "double duty" in the Protectorate and the United Kingdom or British territories with reciprocal legislation, such as Southern or Northern Rhodesia. No duty in the nature of legacy or succession duty is payable. The present schedule of rates of estate duty was laid down in 1950 and examples of estate duty payable are as follows:—

	£		£	£
Estates exceeding	2,000	but not exceeding	5,000	1 per cent.
" "	7,500	" " "	10,000	3 per cent.
" "	35,000	" " "	40,000	11 per cent.
" "	100,000	" " "	150,000	23 per cent.
" "	500,000	" " "	750,000	35 per cent.

No duty is payable on estates under £2,000 in value, and where an estate of under £10,000 is inherited in whole or in part by a surviving spouse half the usual rates are charged.

NATIVE TREASURIES

Under the Native Authority Ordinance, Native Treasuries have been established by all Native Authorities. In all districts the Native Authorities have federated their treasuries on a district basis with a

view to strengthening their financial position. Native Treasuries are under the control of the Native Authorities, are directly supervised by the District Commissioner and are run in accordance with standing instructions. Their annual estimates are subject to the approval of the Governor.

Financial competence in Native Authorities and their staff is developing but their efficiency still depends mainly on the efforts of District Commissioners. Conditions vary throughout the Protectorate and, as Native Authorities display different degrees of ability, so the degree of responsibility undertaken by them and the degree of control exercised by District Commissioners vary.

With the establishment of District Councils under the Local Government (District Councils) Ordinance, 1953 (mentioned in Part III, Chapter 3 of this Report) the Finance Committees of these Councils are assuming considerably greater responsibilities in the management of the financial affairs of their Councils.

There is an awakening, albeit gradual, of the less literate mass of the population to a realization that the Native Treasuries are indeed their own, that they are in no way financed by Government and that the various local rates and taxes do not accrue to Government but to the local treasury for expenditure on local administration and development. Few villagers, however, have as yet any appreciation of the "share of tax" system or realize that it is not only Government but also their own treasury which benefits from tax collection. basically this is due to the fact that the average villager has little comprehension of a money economy. To him the Government, in the person of the District Commissioner, is the repository of all wealth. The impression is still widely held that the resources of Government are unlimited and that money is somehow forthcoming at will. The knowledge that the development of Native Administration must be firmly established on a sound financial basis is, however, slowly spreading among the Chiefs. In most cases they are undoubtedly beginning to seek new sources of revenue for their treasuries and their increasing efforts to ensure a full collection of fees due under Native Authority legislation are an encouraging sign.

The general principles governing the finances of Native Treasuries are:—

(i) Reserve funds, not including funds held in special accounts for specific purposes, should be not less than 55 per cent. of normal annual revenue.

(ii) A 10 per cent. margin between recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure should be maintained.

(iii) New services and capital works should not be undertaken unless it is clear that future recurrent costs can be met.

(iv) The allocation of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges, *i.e.*, services, must be guided by the principle that increases in the former must not be at the expense of existing services and that expenditure should, as far as possible, be devoted to improving and developing the services provided by local government.

The revenue of Native Treasuries in 1954 was derived from the following main sources:—

(i) A share of tax paid by Africans under the Native Tax Ordinance. The share is 9s out of each 17s-6d tax. Estimated revenue from this source was £244,880.

(ii) Court fees and fines which were estimated to produce £35,060 in 1955.

(iii) Fees derived from the rules to control services, *e.g.*, markets, marriage registration, beer, fishing, canteen, hotel and dog licence fees. The estimate of revenue from this source in 1955 was £46,570.

(iv) 25 per cent. of rentals on African trust land, of royalties on forest produce from African trust land and of cattle dipping fees and 50 per cent. of the sale of ivory. The estimate for 1955 of revenue from this source was £12,841.

The total estimated revenue of Native Treasuries in 1955 was £391,646, of which Provincial totals were Northern Province £46,548, Central Province £135,279, and Southern Province £209,819.

Expenditure by Native Treasuries gives a good indication of the type of services undertaken by Native Authorities. The main heads taken from the 1955 estimates are:—

<i>Heads</i>	<i>Expenditure</i> £
Administration (including Clerks, Messengers, Community Workers, etc.)	114,960
Land Usage (including Agricultural Rangers, Group Farm Upkeep, Crop Protection, Agricultural Shows, Plantation Maintenance)	11,187
Social Services (including Sanitary Capitaoos, Health Inspectors, Midwives, Mail Carriers, Drugs and Equipment, School Equipment, etc.)	14,521
Works (including Builders, Ferrymen, Roads and Bridges) ..	22,434
Water Supplies (including Wells Maintenance and Repairs) ..	9,455
Markets	4,711
Special Funds (including transfers to Central Education Funds) ..	128,530

The Native Authorities are responsible not only for the actual collection of African poll tax throughout the areas under their control but also for the compilation and maintenance of village assessment

rolls, on which are entered the names and details of all males liable to pay tax together with a continuous record of annual payments. It is the legal duty of the village headman to keep the Native Authorities informed of any new settlers of taxable age in their areas and of young persons in the villages who reach the apparent age of 18 years. Assessment rolls are also kept at District Headquarters, where statistics in respect of tax collection are compiled. The standard of tax collection has notably improved in recent years though, it still leaves something to be desired, and the organization of drives for closer collection still springs in most cases from the District Commissioners rather than from the Native Authorities as does propaganda for the more accurate maintenance of assessment rolls. Some Native Authorities, however, have demonstrated their efficiency in these matters.

Due to financial stringency Government was compelled in 1952 to limit its contribution by way of grants-in-aid to African primary education. In order to meet increases in the cost of maintaining the development programme for primary education, the Native Authorities were asked to contribute from the funds which they had started to accumulate in their treasuries for educational purposes since 1950. In 1952 a total of £33,500 was contributed by the Native Authorities and in 1953 a further £33,000. The method of financing African primary education was extensively revised in 1954, and a five year plan covering the period 1954–1959 worked out in detail. Perhaps the most important aspect of this plan is the decision whereby a great measure of financial responsibility for African primary education was transferred from the central to local authorities. During the financial year 1954/55 Native Authorities contributed a total of £106,706 to the education fund under this new financial arrangement.

TOWN COUNCILS

Before this Chapter is concluded a word should be said about the financial affairs of the town councils of the Protectorate. Five such councils exist, at Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba, Lilongwe and Salima.

They are established under the Townships Ordinance and submit annual estimates of revenue and expenditure for the Governor's approval. Revenue is derived mainly from general rates on land and buildings, sanitation fees and market fees, while the principal items of expenditure are salaries, road maintenance, vehicle maintenance, sanitation and market maintenance. Extraordinary expenditure usually covers such items as markets, purchase of lorries, water supplies and drainage. The Crown is not legally liable to pay rates but the principle is accepted that Government should pay contributions in lieu of rates to town councils in respect of Government land and residential buildings in the townships and these contributions are made annually in the form of grants-in-aid. In the latter part of 1954 an enquiry was undertaken with particular regard to the case for the amalgamation of the two virtually adjacent townships of Blantyre and

Limbe and it was decided by a referendum to ratepayers in March, 1955, that the two townships should amalgamate under a single municipality. New elections will be held in 1956 with a view to electing a single town council.

During the financial year 1954/55, £85,000 was loaned by Government to town councils to enable them to undertake capital development works, and provision has been made in the 1955/56 financial year for further loans amounting to £135,000. The loan finance made available to the municipalities is largely devoted to such works as road reconstruction, the construction of civic buildings, housing for municipal employees and amenities such as street lighting.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

LIABILITIES				£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF LOAN FUNDS:												
Development Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,264	1	5
Nyasaland Government 3% Guaranteed Stock	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	842	9	0
DEPOSITS												
C.D. and Welfare Grants (b)	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,046	2	6			
Cotton Fund	..	..	..	..	..	..	172,937	0	7			
Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	296,542	2	3	529,525	5	4
SPECIAL FUNDS												
Administrator General												
Brown Trust	..	..	..	211,782	2	4						
Other Estates	..	..	..	8,702	14	8	220,484	17	0			
Official Receiver	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,973	8	7			
Bankruptcy Contingency Fund	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	9	11			
Ewing Bequest Library Fund	..	..	..	..	..	..	907	11	2			
Ruarwe Trust Fund	..	..	..	..	..	..	464	5	7			
Native Development and Welfare Fund	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,070,855	15	0			
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme	..	..	..	..	..	..	181,530	9	2			
Price Assistance Fund (A.T.B.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	508,808	4	11			
Cotton Board Reserve Account	..	..	..	..	..	..	297,880	1	1			
Stock Transfer Stamp Duty Fund	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,867	11	7			
Education Fund	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,063	5	4	2,295,889	19	4
WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES												
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,658	10	0
RESERVE FOR DEVELOPMENT												
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	500,000	0	0
GENERAL REVENUE BALANCE AT 1-7-54												
	..	..	..	..	..	..	869,130	12	6			
Add—Surplus and Deficit Account	..	..	..	..	..	..	71,334	12	0			
							940,465	4	6			
Less Depreciation of Investments	..	..	..	..	..	..	61,653	15	7			
										878,811	8	11
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES:—												
IMPERIAL LOAN TO MEET 1914/18 WAR EXPENDITURE												
Local	..	..	..	42,000	0	0						
War Office Loan	..	..	..	55,499	7	5						
				£97,499	7	5				£4,240,991	14	0

NOTE:—(a) Certain Investments in the Nyasaland Railways and the Trans-Zambesia Railway are held by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations in the name of the Nyasaland Government. These Investments are held by the Nyasaland Government on behalf of the Federal Government.

(b) At the 30th June, 1955, a sum of £64,852-15s-10d was due from Colonial Development and Welfare Act Funds.

AND LIABILITIES AT 30TH JUNE, 1955

	ASSETS	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
CASH										
At Banks and with Sub-Accountants		..	..		382,839	2	0			
With Agencies		..	..		8,223	18	3			
In Transit		..	..		32,394	2	2			
With Joint Colonial Fund		..	..		398,000	0	0			
Imprests		..	..		5,790	0	0	827,247	2	5
ADVANCES										
Personal		..	..		183,924	19	6			
Inter-Territorial		..	..		34,897	1	5			
Other		..	..		78,354	16	4	297,176	17	3
ADVANCES—LOAN EXPENDITURE		..	..		..	..		261,653	14	4
INVESTMENTS:—										
On Account of Special Funds:—										
Administrator General										
Brown Trust		210,463	11	7						
Other Estates		4,891	10	7	215,355	2	2			
Ewing Bequest Library Fund		..	..		907	11	2			
Ruarwe Trust Fund		..	..		463	18	9			
Native Development & Welfare Fund		..	..		952,228	13	9			
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme		..	..		155,871	12	10			
Price Assistance Fund (A.T.B.)		..	..		508,808	4	11			
Cotton Board Reserve Account		..	..		297,880	1	1			
Stock Transfer Stamp Duty Fund		..	..		9,096	14	4			
					2,140,611	19	0			
On Account of General Revenue Balance		..	..		710,624	7	1	2,851,236	6	1
WAR OFFICE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT		..	..		..	..		3,677	13	11
								£4,240,991	14	0

Chapter 4

Currency and Banking

NYASALAND was represented on the Southern Rhodesia Currency Board, which during 1954 became the Central African Currency Board. Hitherto both the notes and coin issued by the Southern Rhodesia Currency Board and United Kingdom coin were legal tender, but on the 31st December, 1954, United Kingdom coin ceased to be legal tender, and only the notes and coin issued by the Central African Currency Board are now valid.

Two commercial banks, the Standard Bank of South Africa and Barclays Bank, D.C.O., operate in the Protectorate. The former has four branches, at Blantyre, Zomba, Limbe and Lilongwe and two agencies, at Cholo and Mlanje, and the latter two branches, at Blantyre and Limbe. Statistics for Nyasaland Banks are now included in the banking statistics for the Federal area as a whole.

No bank rate as such exists in the Protectorate; interest rates are guided by the prevailing Bank of England rate.

The rate of exchange for the transfer of money between the United Kingdom and Nyasaland as at 31st December, 1955, was as follows:—

Buying—London per £100 British				
Telegraphic transfer	..	..	..	£99-10s-0d
Airmail	..	..	..	£99- 7s-0d
Surface mail	..	..	..	£99- 1s-0d
Selling—Telegraphic transfer and sight	..	..	..	£100-10s-0d

The Nyasaland Post Office Savings Bank was taken over by the Federal Government with effect from the 1st July, 1954, and became part of the Federal Post Office Savings Bank. The rate of interest was 3 per cent.

Chapter 5

Commerce

ON 1st January, 1954, the Federal Government undertook complete responsibility for the compilation of all statistics and maintained those statistics from that date in respect of the Federation as a single entity. The full documentation of movements of goods between the three territories of the Federation is no longer maintained, and such figures as are available, in respect of Nyasaland trade only, take into account movements between Nyasaland and places outside the Federal area—i.e., movements over that portion of the Protectorate boundary which forms part of the boundary of the Federation.

Special arrangements were, however, made for the provision of such statistics as were available, and as the final figures for 1955 are not yet available the table on page 49, extracted from details, provided by the Central African Statistical Office in respect of the twelve month period from 1st October, 1954, to 30th September, 1955, is of interest.

The Federal Government has assumed responsibility for all Customs and Excise matters, though on account of Nyasaland's position, *vis-à-vis* the Congo Basin Treaties it was not possible, except in regard to the degree of documentation, to permit any substantial relaxation of import and export formalities in respect of movements between the Protectorate and the other two territories of the Federation.

During 1955, a further 16 companies were incorporated in the Protectorate, bringing the total number of local companies on the register to 164 with a nominal capital of £3,702,833. In addition 12 new companies incorporated outside Nyasaland were registered to carry on business inside the Protectorate.

The commercial activity of the community is to some extent reflected in the number of land transactions taking place, as many of these relate to the opening or transfer of trading plots. The number of such transactions in 1955 was 1,043, compared with 978 in 1954 and 852 in 1953.

Trade continued to be mainly in the hands of Europeans and Asians. The Africans are, however, becoming increasingly aware of the possibilities of participating in the commercial life of the Protectorate, particularly in the South, while in the North the co-operative movement, described in Chapter 6, did much to stimulate interest in commercial activities. It is estimated that some 6,000 Africans were engaged in trade during the year.

As stated in Chapter 2 of this Part of the Report, Nyasaland has Government Representatives in Salisbury and Johannesburg, whose main duties are connected with migrant labour. The addresses of these officers are, respectively, P.O. Box 923, Salisbury, and P.O. Box 123, Jeppestown, Johannesburg. The Johannesburg office was transferred to its present address at the end of 1955. The office of the Nyasaland Commissioner in London closed in June and its work was taken over by the office of the Federal High Commissioner in London, of which the address is No. 429 the Strand, London, W.C. 2. In Beira the Union Castle Steamship Company and in Capetown Thomas Cook and Sons act as agents to the Nyasaland Government in connection with shipping matters.

STATISTICS OF TRADE BETWEEN NYASALAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND
Cumulative Statistics of Imports, Exports and Re-exports for the twelve months period from 1st October, 1954 to 30th September, 1955

Class	I (a)	(b) (c)				Domestic	
						Imports	Exports
						£	£
..	..	..	Animals, agricultural and pastoral products	..	..	14,362	..
"	I (d)	..	Foodstuffs	..	..	600,027	64,379
"	II (a)	..	Spirits, potable	..	..	52,185	4,735,541
"	II (b)	..	Spirits, non-potable	..	..	2,189	..
"	III	..	Tobacco	..	..	1,236	..
"	IV	..	Fibres, yarns, textiles and apparel	..	..	1,929,851	2,589,954
"	V	..	Metals, metal manufactures, machinery and vehicles	..	..	2,722,468	69,650
"	VI	..	Minerals, earthenware, glassware and cement	..	..	134,752	8,036
"	VII	..	Oils, resin, waxes, paints and varnishes	..	..	545,761	834
"	VIII	..	Drugs, chemicals and fertilisers	..	..	180,748	136,674
"	IX	..	Leather, rubber and their manufactures	..	..	226,357	22,641
"	X	..	Wood, cane and their manufactures	..	..	189,103	..
"	XI	..	Books, paper and stationery	..	..	87,779	8
"	XII	..	Jewellery, timepieces, fancy goods and musical instruments	..	..	114,484	506
"	XIII	..	Miscellaneous	..	..	104,536	13
			TOTAL	..	..	£6,905,838	£7,628,486
							£54,499

Chapter 6

Production

[In this Chapter, unless otherwise stated, weights are given in short tons.]

LAND UTILIZATION AND TENURE

THE land area of the Protectorate is 36,879 square miles and the water area 12,298 square miles. A description of the physiography and climate of Nyasaland is given in Part III, Chapter 1 of this Report.

The great bulk of the productive land is arable, largely under peasant cultivation, with small areas under tea, tobacco and tung. African-owned cattle are usually grazed in the bush adjacent to their owners' villages or on stream plains in the neighbourhood. Arable production comprises tobacco, tea, tung and cotton as the principal economic crops and maize, cassava, rice, beans and groundnuts as the principal food crops, though some in this latter category are also grown as economic crops.

The Forest Estate, which comprises nearly one-fifth of the Protectorate's land area, contains some species of rare and valuable softwoods, indigenous Mlanje Cedar (*Widdringtonia Whytei*) and a variety of useful hardwoods, but so far as is at present known, the timber resources are barely equal to the Protectorate's needs and large scale afforestation is taking place.

There remain undeveloped areas of some size in the Protectorate, notably the Vipya and Nyika Plateaux in the Northern Province, the potentialities of which are at present under investigation. The development of most of these areas does, however, depend on drainage and irrigation, the clearance of bush, the improvement of communications and the solution of other natural problems.

The 1945 census revealed a density of 55.51 to the square mile, with a range of 12.14 to 309.77 between districts, but in certain areas population densities of 800 to the square mile have been found to exist.

The classification of land utilization is tentatively estimated as follows, figures being very approximate:—

Arable land	..	..	..	..	10,000	square miles
Land for growing tree-crops, vines, shrubs, etc.					1,300	„ „
Permanent meadow and pasture	..	..			2,300	„ „
Wood or forest land	..	..	..		7,000	„ „
Other land	..	..	..	..	16,279	„ „
TOTAL LAND AREA					..	..
					<u>36,879</u>	<u>square miles</u>

The Lands Section of the Secretariat, with additional staff at its disposal, made further progress in dealing with outstanding applications for leases of African trust and Public land in addition to handling mining and town planning matters. While the administration of land falls to the Lands Section, a Lands Adviser was appointed early in the year, and made responsible for advising Government, through the Secretary for African Affairs, upon policy regarding African tenure of land. Negotiations for the acquisition of large areas of land for African resettlement have been undertaken, and the requirements of the Federal Government, in respect of both land and buildings, have demanded considerable attention.

The Natural Resources Ordinance of 1949, as amended, provides for the setting up of Provincial and District Natural Resources Boards. The functions of Provincial Boards include the making of Orders for the conservation of natural resources, recommending to the Governor any legislation which they deem to be necessary for this purpose, the exercise of general supervision over all natural resources and the examination of all conservation proposals submitted to them by District Boards and executive officers. District Boards co-operate by formulating conservation schemes for submission to the Provincial Boards and undertaking conservation works and measures on the authority of the Provincial Boards. Both types of Board include in their membership European non-officials and prominent Africans.

A Provincial Board, if it considers that measures should be taken for the conservation of natural resources in any part of the Province, may order the owner or occupier of the land in question to undertake such measures. These Orders may relate to the use to which land may be put, the preservation and protection of stream banks, sources or courses, the preservation or restriction of cultivation, the methods of cultivation on any land, the control of water, the manner of watering, depasturing or moving stock and the construction or maintenance of conservation works. Failure to comply with such Orders renders the owner or occupier guilty of an offence. Under section 20 of the Ordinance the Governor is empowered to make Rules of general application for similar purposes. Such Rules were enacted in 1952 and were applied during the same year to all three Provinces.

In the Northern Province, with its rather sparse population, only the first stage of physical soil conservation measures, that is the protection of cultivated land by means of contour bunds, has so far been attempted. However, with the exception of one catchment, practically all the plateau and hill areas of three-quarters of the Province have now been conserved in this way. Despite the amount of bunding and propaganda carried out in this Province, the traditional practice of shifting cultivation, necessitating marking and bunding of the new gardens, with the consequent waste of those conservation measures already taken in the old gardens, required constant attention and work. The construction of bench terraces has become popular in

connection with the cultivation of coffee and has been accepted as normal practice throughout the Province.

The Northern Province Natural Resources Board was aware that considerable sheet erosion continued over vast areas of the Province, but considered the solution to lie in the control of bush fires and in the correct apportionment of non-cultivated land between grazing and forest usage. The Board, realizing in 1954 that, with the resources at its disposal, complete protection against fire of important catchment areas was impossible, inaugurated a policy of early protective patch-work burning (under licence from the Board) in areas where complete protection would be difficult to enforce. By this means less than half the land surface vegetation was burnt, as the burnt patches formed barriers against later fires. In 1954 this policy was applied to the grasslands of the Vipya and Nyika, where the results were sufficiently successful to warrant extending it to other areas in the Province, particularly the sparsely populated escarpment areas. The results obtained so far appear to have justified this modification in the no-burning policy.

The Board directed most of its energies to the protection and proper usage of unexploited resources. Large areas of the Vipya and Nyika Plateaux, which are vital water shed catchments, were surveyed and earmarked for forest development, both by Government and individual enterprises. Coffee growing was encouraged in areas ecologically suitable where annual crops were inadvisable owing to the broken terrain. The Veterinary and Agricultural Departments experimented with keeping livestock on the hitherto understocked areas of the high grassland and low-lying plains. Fish farms were established at three main and several subsidiary centres and all the dams recently constructed were stocked with fish.

In order to combat under-population and to assist in the more favourable distribution of population and stock in areas suffering from a lack of natural amenities, the Board encouraged the building of small earth dams by communal effort for watering stock. In 1955 10 such dams, with an average capacity of 1,500,000 gallons, were constructed with the use of ox teams, and over 100 miles of district roads were built, partly by communal effort and partly by assistance from development funds. The encroachment into grazing lands of the tsetse fly and of thorn scrub have also occupied much of the Board's attention.

In the Central Province, which is the richest agricultural area in the country, the population pressure is not so acute as in the South, but the widespread tobacco industry with its heavy demands on timber supplies, together with its relatively large population of 161,252 cattle and 239,248 small stock compared with 117,609 and 18,545 respectively in the Northern Province and 28,165 and 147,029 in the Southern Province, present problems virtually unknown in the South. In a

region of wide rolling plains, crossed by only a few large rivers which rise near the Northern Rhodesia border and flow the width of the Province, dry season water supplies are a serious problem. The fertile loams of the Central Province are particularly liable to erosion and the system of tie-ridging was introduced in this area as long ago as the thirties.

The programme of physical conservation measures, involving the construction of graded bunds and protection of watercourses, continued during the year in all districts of the Province, but the greatest concentration of staff and enlistment of communal effort was in the Nathenje area in the Lilongwe District. In a campaign of six months 62,861 acres were conserved.

A programme of construction of small earth dams, similar to the Northern Province scheme, was initiated and three dams were completed during the year. A scheme for the protection of the upper Lilongwe River by extension of the Dzalanyama Forest Reserve, was approved in principle by the Provincial Board. The Board also sponsored the formation of District cattle management committees in an endeavour to make the best use of grazing areas and re-examined the problem of overstocking on the Angoni Highlands escarpment.

The major problem facing the Central Province Board was, however, the need to re-afforest the Lilongwe-Dowa plain. Schemes were sponsored to encourage tree growing by schools, to assist Native Authorities and villages in running village forest areas and in setting aside Forest Estates for management by Government staff. A District Forest Officer was posted to Lilongwe to undertake extension work, which took the form of propaganda to encourage private tree planting, continued by means of meetings, film shows, literature and demonstrations.

In the Southern Province population pressure aggravated exploitation of the soil and vegetation. A large proportion of the cultivators cannot expect even to extract their subsistence from their holdings and, as a result, normally obtain employment for at least part of the year. Against this background the Provincial Board endeavoured, by means of physical conservation drives and orders for closure and controlled cultivation made under the Natural Resources Rules, to prevent further deterioration. Consideration was also given to a number of schemes for the reclamation and resettlement of Public and under-cultivated African trust land.

The main conservation drive with the concentration of trained staff took place this year in the Upper Nswadzi Valley of the Cholo District, where in a six month campaign some 5,545 acres, partly on private estates and partly on African trust land, were conserved. A mechanical soil conservation unit, consisting of a County Crawler with bulldozer attachment and subsidiary equipment, operated for five

months in the Chiradzulu District constructing soil conservation earth works for African cultivators on repayment: 2,163 acres were conserved. A pool of conservation equipment for hire to private estates was also started by Government in response to a request from local farmers.

The conservation of the water resources of the Province was one of the main subjects to occupy the Board's attention and action was taken in two ways: cultivation was stopped and replaced by afforestation in densely populated areas and in catchment areas for the water supply to townships, while a concerted effort was also made to demarcate the limits of permissible cultivation in the vicinity of the innumerable streams, in order to try and encourage regrowth of the frequently destroyed riverine vegetation. Where in particular instances it was felt that the general legislation has given inadequate protection, special legislation was recommended by the Board to increase the protected strip. It has long been appreciated that the prevalence of bush fires during the dry season has a most deleterious effect on the Province's water resources and the Boards have left no stone unturned in attempting to arrive at a practical solution to this perennial problem.

The disposal of storm water from the Province's roads, especially in respect of the new main tarmac roads and the interrelation of roadside drains and conservation works in the adjacent cultivated lands, received considerable attention.

Approximately 3.75 per cent. of the total land area of the Protectorate is at present held in freehold by private land owners. Some 9.28 per cent. comprises the areas of townships and the land held by Government (including the areas of public institutions and State forests). The remaining land, approximately 86.33 per cent. of the whole, is African trust land, vested in the Secretary of State for the Colonies and administered by the Governor on his behalf for the common benefit, direct or indirect, of the African inhabitants of the Protectorate. Native Authorities may, however, subject to the directions of the Governor, authorize Africans to use and occupy African trust land within their respective areas in accordance with the native customary law prevailing therein. The Governor may grant leases of, or dispose of, other interests in African trust land, either to Africans or non-Africans, but before doing so he must consult the Native Authority of the area in which the land is situated and only with the approval of the Secretary of State may he grant an estate or interest greater than a lease for 99 years. The Governor may also make grants to search for and work minerals on African trust land, following consultation with the Native Authority and having general regard to African interests. He may also acquire trust land for public purposes which are for the direct or indirect benefit of Africans, again after consultation with the Native Authority, compensation being paid where necessary.

The Nyasaland Protectorate (African Trust Land) Order in Council, 1950, defines “ African trust land ” and “ public land ”. Provision for the disposal of public land is made in the Public Land Ordinance, empowering the Governor to make and execute grants and leases of public land for any purpose and on any terms he thinks fit.

The types of tenure on which land is held in the Protectorate are freehold (arising from Certificates of Claim granted by Government in the early days of the Protectorate), leasehold from the Crown or private land owners and leases of African trust land, already described above. Africans occupy their land by customary tenure and in so far as over 75 per cent. of the African population is concerned, the principal features influencing the customary tenure of land are matrilineal inheritance, an uxori-local system of marriage and the allocation of the land by the Village Headman.

The areas and types of holding are as follows; all figures are approximate:—

Unalienated African trust land	..	..	20,375,716 acres
Government, Townships, etc.	..	..	2,189,891 „
Freehold	..	..	884,262 „
Leasehold	..	..	152,691 „
TOTAL LAND AREA			<u>23,602,560 acres</u>

The position of Africans residing on private estates is governed by the Africans on Private Estates Ordinance.

As a result of the recommendations of the Abrahams Report and the Land Planning Committee, subsequently set up, some 300,000 acres of land were acquired between 1948 and 1954 by Government from estate-owners in the Southern Province for the re-settlement of Africans living in other congested areas.

On these 300,000 acres voluntary movement continued at a high rate, the net increase on Magomero and Chingale blocks being 10 per cent. including natural increase, most immigrants coming from the congested areas of Zomba and Chiradzulu. On the other blocks in Blantyre and Cholo Districts movement was no more than normal as these areas were already heavily settled at the time of acquisition.

As a result of negotiations between Government and owners of certain estates for the sale of land closely occupied by African tenants and also suitable land not required by estate owners for development, agreement was reached during the year for Government to acquire a further 72,000 acres in the Southern Province. These acquisitions reduced the number of African families in that Province resident on private estates by 12,000; it also resulted in a further 1,200 families moving voluntarily from private land to land acquired by Government. Negotiations continued with estate-owners in the Southern Province for the acquisition of further land for resettlement purposes. In the

Northern Province negotiations were pursued for the acquisition of over 50,000 acres of privately owned land which was undeveloped.

It was estimated that some 30,000 resident African families still remained on private estates in the Southern Province.

A G R I C U L T U R E

The Agricultural policy for the Protectorate has been planned with a view to producing sufficient food to keep pace with an ever growing population, to providing a safe reserve against possible crop failure to maintaining and improving the standard of economic crop production and at the same time ensuring a steady improvement in farming practices. Despite rather adverse weather conditions, which affected tobacco and cotton production, food supplies were more than adequate to meet all needs and record crops of groundnuts, tea, rice, wheat and pulses were marketed. Improvements in farming practices were largely responsible for this increased production.

A surplus of 44,807 tons of maize was purchased by the Produce Marketing Board at a price of 1d per lb. during 1955, which was more than adequate to meet local needs and to provide a reserve of approximately 28,000 tons against a famine due to drought or unforeseen circumstances in 1956. As soon as the 1956 harvest is assured the surplus reserve will be exported, but, with the general slump in world prices and the costly road and rail haul to the coast this maize can only be sold at a loss. Future policy will, therefore, aim only to produce sufficient maize for local demands and for the necessary safe reserve. By virtue of being the staple food of the Protectorate, maize will, however, continue to occupy a prominent position in the agronomy and economy of the country.

Other graminaceous foods grown include wheat, rice, millets, both eleusine and bullrush, and sorghum. The production of wheat was a record and a surplus of 664 tons was purchased by local traders at a price of 3d per lb. from African farmers. Wheat growing was restricted to a circumscribed area, which was not capable of expansion to any extent.

Surplus paddy production amounted to 7,202 tons and was by far the largest crop ever produced in Nyasaland the previous best being 4,330 tons in 1953. This was due to favourable weather conditions resulting in optimum flooding of paddy fields, and also, to a greater interest in the crop fostered by Co-operative Societies. Producer Co-operative Societies and the Kota Kota Produce and Trading Society purchased the crop in all the main producing centres, paying growers 2½d per lb. for paddy. It is unfortunate that this record crop coincided with a general fall in world prices, due to over-production in other parts of the world. A large part of the grade I crop was, however, sold within the Federation at a controlled price of £60 per ton for rice.

Millets and sorghums are normally only grown for local consumption but 1,157 tons were purchased during the year by traders for export.

The steady increase in groundnut production over the past five years was maintained in 1955, when the Produce Marketing Board purchased a record surplus of 10,321 tons at a price of 3½d per lb. from growers. Much of the increase was due to improvement in cultural methods, particularly closer spacing and earlier planting. Groundnuts were one of the few crops to maintain a reasonably steady price on world markets and, as this crop has been proved empirically to have a beneficial effect on subsequent crops planted in rotation, apart from its values as a food and an economic crop, every effort is being made to expand its cultivation.

The Protectorate's tobacco crop totalled 22,816,811 lbs. for all types of tobacco sold over the auction floors, representing a reduction of approximately 10,000,000 lbs. on the 1954 crop. A breakdown of this total into various types of tobacco and the average prices obtained on the auction floors is as follows:—

TOBACCO SALES OVER THE LIMBE AUCTION FLOORS

			1954		1955		
			<i>Quantity sold</i>	<i>Average price</i>			
			<i>Quantity sold</i>	<i>Average price</i>			
Fire-cured	..	..	23,598,853	13.56	..	14,781,752	19.21
Air-cured	..	..	3,298,679	16.45	..	2,323,794	20.81
Flue-cured	..	..	4,305,663	25.45	..	3,693,808	27.16
Burley	..	..	1,949,375	27.13	..	2,017,457	26.95
TOTALS			33,152,570	16.19	..	22,816,811	21.35

In the Central Province, which is the main fire-cured producing area, the number of growers dropped from 54,329 to 42,219. This decline was due to sporadic growers and those growing under marginal conditions being dissatisfied with the return they obtained in 1954 and turning to production of other crops, such as groundnuts and maize, which require less effort than tobacco and give a comparable cash return. Less than 4 per cent. of the total were refused registration and these were very negligent growers. Although the number of growers fell by as much as 22 per cent. the acreage under crop fell by only 16 per cent. There is no doubt that the main reason for the shortfall in crop was the very unfavourable weather. Lack of rain at the start of the season led to delayed planting and this was followed by persistent rain and lack of sun, which deprived the crops of any chance to develop satisfactorily. As a result the average yield per acre for this type of tobacco fell from 213 in 1954 to 155 lbs. in 1955, but the average price paid to growers rose from 7.76d per lb. in 1954 to 9.14d per lb. in 1955. If this price can be maintained it should be sufficient to sustain interest in the crop and to attract and retain good growers, provided other costs and crop prices do not rise in proportion. The

number of growers and acreage of air-cured tobacco remained constant and the shortfall in crop was due entirely to the weather.

The burley crop of just over 2,000,000 lbs. was on a par with the 1954 production, but the demand for this type of leaf is limited. As with the fire and air-cured crops the European grown flue-cured crop was adversely affected by the inclement weather, production fell by 14 per cent. and yields dropped to 544 lbs. cured leaf per acre. The incidence of *alternaria* disease in the Kasungu area was less in 1955 and it appeared from investigations conducted by Dr. Wheeler that this disease could be controlled by attention to better cultural methods and field hygiene.

All fire and air-cured tobacco produced on African trust land is purchased from growers by the African Tobacco Board at their own markets situated in the main producing areas. All tobacco produced on trust land, by tenants on private estates and by European farmers is graded privately or by commercial graders before being sold by auction on one of two auction floors in Limbe. The tobacco is then handled, packed and exported by a number of tobacco exporting firms.

The heavy rains of 1955 favoured the tea industry and tea exports for the year reached a new record of 17,190,378 lbs. made tea. The high prices at the London auctions in 1954 were maintained during the early part of 1955 culminating in a record price for Nyasaland tea of 86.25d per lb. for 102 chests from one estate in January. From an average of well over 70d per lb. in January and February there was a downward trend to a price which steadied at slightly below 40d per lb. in April and stayed at that level until the end of the year. The favourable season resulted in record crops being harvested on many estates and with the good average prices received the season ended as one of the best on record. The rains also assured the success of new plantings and it was encouraging to note the increasing acreage of old poor quality tea that was replaced by new plantings. The start of a seed certification scheme in 1955 will help estates to obtain uniform seed of good quality for new planting. At the 31st March the total acreage under tea had risen to 25,718 acres of which 22,037 acres were in bearing.

Although in theory the 1954/55 season should have been an "off" season if the biennial bearing pattern of tung in recent years had been followed, the heavy rains and increased acreage coming into bearing resulted in a crop of some 900 long tons of oil nearly equal to that of the previous year. The failure of the American tung crop and uncertain supply of Chinese tung oil resulted in a slight recovery of tung prices which rose from an average of £125 per long ton of oil in 1954 to £160 in 1955. The future of this crop, however, remained uncertain and many of the smaller growers have given up production, leaving it mainly in the hands of a few large producers. The total acreage under tung showed a slight decrease to 19,429

acres, of which some 75 per cent. was in bearing. The Colonial Development Corporation had a year of consolidation at their plantations in the Northern Province, where 4,215 acres were well established out of a revised target of 6,000 acres. The tung crop, grown exclusively by European farmers, was expelled in the country at one of two factories and marketed by the Tung Growers Association.

The needs of the tea and tung estates for technical advice were met by specialist officers attached to the Tea Research Station and the Bvumbwe Tung and Agricultural Experiment Station. Both stations were managed with the advice of Committees, composed of planters and officers of the Department of Agriculture, and issued monthly news bulletins which were of good service to planters.

The 1955 cotton crop totalled 9,579 tons of seed cotton (equivalent to 15,407 standard bales of cotton lint) and was the second highest crop produced since 1938. The increase of 1,778 tons on the previous season was largely due to an increase in acreage from 45,500 in 1954 to 56,000 acres in 1955. At one time it was hoped that the crop would be a record, but after a good early start persistent rain and lack of sunshine resulted in excessive vegetative growth, delayed flowering and fruiting and led to a buildup of various pests and diseases. Red bollworm remained under reasonable control on the Lower River, but a similar early regime does not control this pest in other summer crop areas in the Upper Shire and Lake-shore areas. All seed issued for planting was treated with a copper seed dressing for the first time, which greatly reduced the primary stage of bacterial blight. The most alarming feature of the season under review was the rapid increase in Cotton Stainer in all summer crop areas. The effect of Stainer damage on the Lower River was reflected in the high proportion of second grade seed cotton purchased, which amounted to 31 per cent. of the total as compared with 20 per cent. in previous years. It is hoped that an entomological team will be posted to Nyasaland in the near future to study these pest problems, which will, if they remain unsolved, inevitably slow up future expansion. The whole of the African trust land crop was purchased by the Cotton Marketing Board and the prices paid to growers in 1955 were 5d per lb. for first grade and 2d per lb. for second quality seed cotton. The crop is processed at ginneries situated in the main producing centres and all lint was sold to the Federal Cotton Industries Board at a price fixed in relation to world prices. Arrangements were completed by a commercial concern in partnership with the Cotton Marketing Board to set up a cotton seed oil mill at Chiromo. During 1955 the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation decided to move their headquarters from Chitala on the Lake-shore to Chiromo on the Lower River in the centre of the main producing area.

The small coffee growing industry in the Northern Province continued to expand. The issue of a further 60,500 seedlings to growers brought the total of established trees to some 115,000 by the end

of the year, of which 30 per cent. were in bearing. The crop was sold through producer co-operative societies, who purchased 15 tons in 1955. It is interesting to note that the 1955 crop was valued at £490 per long ton compared with £375 in 1954, although world prices had, if anything, fallen, and this was due to a higher standard of hulling and grading resulting from the use of new mechanical equipment erected by the societies. Conditions for coffee in Nyasaland are at the best marginal and only by close attention to correct cultural practices can the crop be expected to thrive. It was encouraging that the attention given to mulching, manuring and timely planting improved considerably. European estates in the Southern Province continued to show an interest in this crop on a mild scale.

Pulses and other minor crops are grown mainly for local consumption, but increasing surpluses found their way to markets. The Produce Marketing Board purchased all surplus beans of the *phaseolus* type, amounting to 1,532 tons of white haricot bean and 424 tons of mixed beans. Difficulty was again experienced in finding a market for white haricot as the Nyasaland product did not come up to the very exacting standards required by the trade for this type of bean. Local traders purchased a total of 4,391 tons of other pulses, mainly, pigeon peas, cow peas, chick peas, velvet beans and grams. The total of 6,347 tons of all types of pulses was by far the largest yet marketed in Nyasaland. Other minor crops purchased by traders for export included 627 tons of cassava and 30 tons of castor oil.

With favourable planting conditions and sustained late rains both cassava and sweet potatoes yielded well and proved most useful supplements to African food supplies. The policy to maintain adequate reserves of both crops against an emergency continued to make steady progress. In the Ncheu and Dedza Highlands the production of European potatoes was again maintained at a high level and 1,934 tons were purchased by traders at local markets in addition to large sales in neighbouring territories. Smaller scale production in the Cholo and Domasi areas, and in the Dowa Hills, helped to meet local consumer requirements.

A promising new enterprise was started in the Cholo District where 25 private estates planted over 200 acres of granadillas. The fruit will be purchased by a local firm which erected a processing plant in Blantyre. Enterprising Africans also built up a good trade in supplying bananas to the growing Blantyre and Limbe townships, which resulted in considerable expansion of plantings of this crop in the Cholo District. An association of African vegetable and fruit growers in the Mwera Hill area produced a larger volume of better quality produce than ever before and had a turnover exceeding £2,000.

The extension services of the Department of Agriculture have as their immediate objective the improvement of the general level of African agriculture step by step, the advancement of selected promising

individuals to a higher standard of conservation farming and the reorganization of village lands on a consolidated pattern to facilitate better land usage. Steady progress has been made with these objectives and simple measures such as early planting, correct spacing, early and thorough weeding, and tie-ridge planting for water and soil conservation are becoming universally adopted.

Physical protection of the soil by means of contour or graded bunds continued and nearly 9,000 miles of bunds were marked in 1955, which as soon as construction is completed, will protect some 93,500 acres of arable land. Other conservation matters that received constant and active attention were gulley reclamation, the safe disposal of storm water, the protection of river banks and waterways, the protection of escarpment areas, the regeneration of overgrazed areas and the conservation of water.

The dam building programme, which commenced in the Northern Province in 1954, continued to make steady progress. The main object of these dams, which are constructed with ox-drawn scoops assisted by the communal effort of villagers benefiting from the improved water supply, is to provide additional watering places for stock, thus making better use of available grazing and preventing the concentration of too many stock at isolated watering points in the dry season with its attendant evil of erosion. The five dams built in 1954 held water throughout the 1955 dry season with one exception and a further 12 dams were constructed in the Northern Province. A similar scheme was started in the Central Province and three dams were completed before the end of the year. The total storage capacity of the dams completed during the past two years exceeds 35,000,000 gallons.

The Master Farmer Scheme, by which it is hoped to evolve a better class of yeoman farmer, who will not only improve his own standard of living but will also set an example for general advancement, made steady progress. Eight first class and 117 second class farmers, cultivating some 2,103 acres of improved arable land, qualified for the bonus awards, which amounted to £2,262. The standard of farming required to qualify for the bonus was extremely high and included full conservation of the land, proper rotation of crops, incorporating fallows, integration of stock and animal husbandry and timely and correct field operations.

Other assistance schemes, aimed at promoting better farming, included the sale of farm carts, fertilizers and pise moulds for building at subsidized prices. Sales of farm carts amounted to 259 in 1955, bringing the total sold to 761. These were used increasingly for transport of manure to the land and helped to bring about an appreciation of the ox as a draught animal and manure producer. 117 tons of sulphate of ammonia were sold, mainly to tobacco growers in the Central Province, as compared with 48 tons in 1954; the value of applying

this fertilizer to maize and fire-cured tobacco was amply proved by experiment. 2,000 pise shutter moulds were also sold to tobacco growers for barn construction as well as for dwelling houses, thus effecting a great saving in timber. Another assistance scheme, started in co-operation with the Veterinary Department, was for the purchase, training and resale of draught oxen to progressive farmers in the Southern Province, where cattle are scarce. Ten pairs of oxen were trained and sold in 1955.

During the year Government created a Land and Agricultural Loans Board to encourage sound agricultural development, with terms of reference similar to the Land Banks in neighbouring territories. The Board considered a number of applications and granted loans amounting to £11,700 to six farmers. A number of subsidy schemes were also introduced for water conservation, fencing, livestock improvement and rebates on unsuccessful boreholes.

Village Land Improvement schemes, which have as their aim the reorganization of village lands, the allocation of suitable areas for timber and grazing and the rearrangement and consolidation of gardens on a permanent conservation pattern, made steady headway. Most progress was made in the Central Province where 14 schemes were initiated which embraced 107 families cultivating 1,106 acres of arable land. At Nyamphota, in the Southern Province, 27 people in neighbouring villages joined the 143 original families engaged in the land improvement schemes there and a total of 1,016 acres of arable land was farmed on a rotational pattern. Grazing areas were set aside for the introduction of stock on an experimental scale in 1956.

In addition to the attempts to reorganize existing settled areas, a number of resettlement schemes were in operation on previously unoccupied land. Those at Ntonda (Blantyre), Likuni (Lilongwe) and Fort Alston (Kasungu) made steady progress, but others at Kakoma (Chikwawa), Muruma (Magomero), Kalembo (Fort Johnston) and Chitala (Dowa) made little headway as the Africans in the area preferred to perpetuate the traditional anachronistic system rather than submit to its organization.

A tractor pool, consisting of six Ferguson tractors and ancillary equipment, continued to operate on the Lower River. As far as possible the pool was operated as a single unit and much of the work undertaken was on the Nyamphota Lands Improvement Scheme. The unit worked 1,485 hours on transport of cotton to market, 251 hours on road grading, ploughed 544 acres and ridged 911 acres.

A mechanical soil conservation unit, consisting of two Fordson diesel tractors, and one Fordson county crawler with ancillary conservation equipment, was brought into operation in the Southern Province. The object of the unit was to speed up physical conservation measures and to lighten the burden of communal work. The cost of all services supplied by the unit was met by the garden owner, in the

case of bunding, or by the community, in the case of works benefiting the community as a whole. During the year the unit completed 155 miles of bunding, 4.2 miles of storm drains, 9.5 miles of drainage ways, constructed a small dam and ploughed and ridged 159 acres of arable land on contract. These services were paid for willingly by the people concerned.

The farm school at Tuchila in the Southern Province continued to run short courses for Chiefs, villagers and master farmers: some 570 persons attended during the season. The policy concentrated on obtaining numbers of people from the same localities in order that they should give each other mutual encouragement after leaving Tuchila and to make it easier for field officers to maintain the enthusiasm and interest engendered at the school. Seventy-six school teachers and 210 agricultural instructors also received refresher courses at the school and 28 villagers attended special courses on the handling and use of oxen. Similar farm schools have now been built at Mbawa in the Northern Province, in collaboration with the Veterinary Department, and at Chitedze in the Central Province and will start operations next season. All farm schools ran model farms demonstrating systems of farming which had been proved by experiment and which the African farmer would be capable of applying.

The training of African Field Staff for the Department continued at the Mpemba (Makwapala) Training Centre. Twenty-five out of 27 students successfully completed the one year course, making a total of 238 trained Agricultural Instructors since the inception of these courses in 1940. Only students who have passed Standard VI are now accepted for the course and this entry standard will be raised as soon as sufficient Standard VIII or Standard X candidates come forward from secondary schools. The two year advanced course was completed for the first time and five out of six students were successful.

Future training will take place at the new Colby School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science, being built at the Agricultural Research Station near Lilongwe, with Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. This new school, situated in the heart of the most important agricultural region of the country, will mark a great advance in agricultural education in Nyasaland. In addition to training 50 Agricultural Instructors and 12 advanced Agricultural Instructors each year the school will cater for 20 Veterinary Instructors, 20 Prison Farm Instructors and 60 Teachers in training. It will also provide short courses for up to 400 Chiefs, villagers and master farmers.

The decision that all teachers in training shall undergo a concentrated agricultural course at the new school is of particular importance as these teachers will be responsible for training the next generation of Nyasas and it is very desirable to give a sound agricultural bias to general education in this country. Special attention has been given to schools and school gardens by field officers of the Department

in co-operation with the School Authorities and the Education Department. This has produced a worthwhile effect on both the standard of agricultural teaching and on the gardens themselves, in addition to demonstrating the salient points of the Department's agricultural policy.

The documentary propaganda film on cotton continued to be shown to increasingly large audiences in the main cotton areas. The African Tobacco Board purchased a cine camera with which to take shots of topical and instructional interest for inclusion in film programmes shown to rural audiences. Two new propaganda films, one on the Master Farmer scheme and the other dealing with soil conservation, are being made in conjunction with the Central African Film Unit.

Research and experimentation continued to expand to the limits of the resources available and covered a wide range of subjects. These subjects included the use of fertilizer on all major crops, the co-ordination of the results of trials with soil types, studies in minor element deficiencies, the introduction, selection and trial of many varieties of crops including tobacco, maize, groundnuts, rice, millets and grass and programmes of plant breeding particularly with maize and cotton. Investigations were also made into the effects of various cultural treatments including time of cultivation and planting, spacing, effect of ridging, mulching and timeliness of weeding on major crops; long term experiments were also pursued relating to rotations and systems of farming applicable to different areas, and trials were undertaken to investigate the suitability, establishment and management of pastures and grasses.

These experiments and investigations were centred on the Agricultural Research Station near Lilongwe and were duplicated as necessary on sub-stations in different environments at Mbawa in the Northern Province, Chitala on the Lake-shore, Tuchila in the Southern Province and Makanga on the Lower River. The decision was taken during the year to move the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation's headquarters from Chitala to Makanga and in future cotton experimentation and breeding work will be centred at Makanga, situated in the centre of the main cotton area. Small scale irrigation trials were also carried out at Makanga in connection with the Shire Valley Project. A number of subsidiary stations carried out investigations into particular crops or problems, such as the flue-cured tobacco station at Lisasadzi in Kasungu District and the coffee station at Nchenachena in the Northern Province.

Considerable advances were made in Tea research which continued under the guidance of the Tea Research Committee on the old station at Swazi and on the new and larger station at Mimosa, both in the Mlanje District, while certain investigations were extended to estates



His Excellency Sir Geoffrey Colby, K.C.M.G., who will leave the Protectorate in March, 1956, after eight years as Governor of Nyasaland



His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury discussing matters of local interest during his visit to the Protectorate in April, 1955



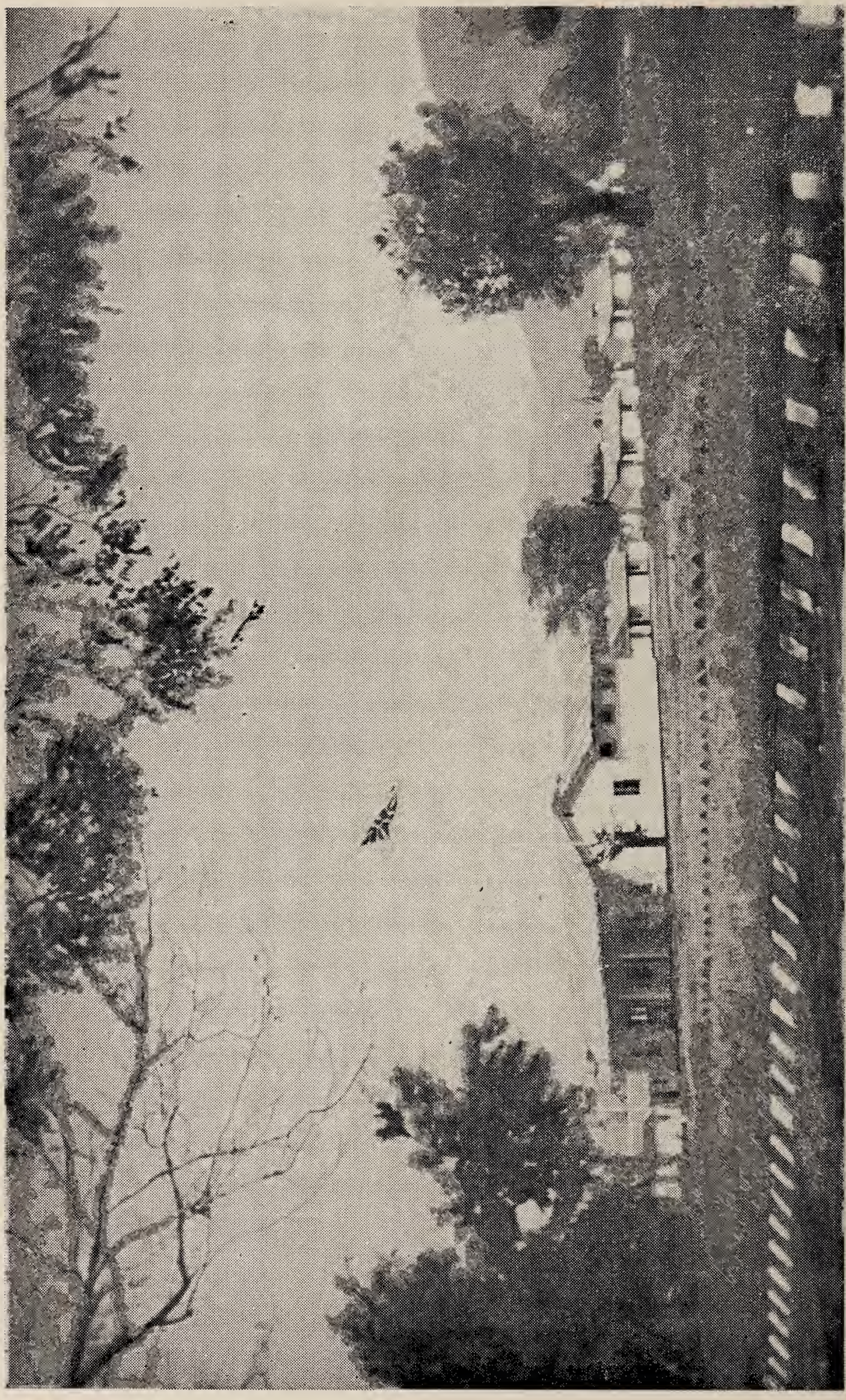
Assistant Sub-Inspector Mateyo Numero, of the Nyasaland Police, conducting the Royal Military School of Music Band at Kneller Hall, whilst receiving instruction in England (Photo :— *The Rhodesia Herald*)



A young Angoni bull bred at one of the Livestock Improvement Centres of the Veterinary Department



An aerial view illustrating the extent to which African farmers in the Cholo area have contour banded farm land



A small rural Police Station at Port Herald of the type now being built, with quarters for policemen in the background



Typical scene at a cotton market



The hydro-electric dam on Zomba Mountain, completed in 1954

in the Cholo tea area. The Bvumbwe Tung and Agricultural Station continued its investigations into all aspects of Tung growing and expanded its work to cover trials with deciduous fruits and coffee and general aspects of mixed farming in an area where European farming predominates.

Either jointly, or in close co-operation with the Veterinary Department, herds of improved indigenous strains of cattle are being built up on all the major general stations. This is naturally a long term project, but appreciable progress has already been made in the condition and productivity of this stock by improved management, provision of dry season fodder and by selection. At the Bvumbwe Tung and Agricultural Station, catering primarily for European farming, a small dairy herd of Jersey cattle is to be introduced.

Investigations into the growing of rice on the flood plain South of Lake Chilwa continued. A trial area of 100 acres was laid out for irrigation in time for the 1954/55 season, but it was only possible to plant 60 acres. Experiments indicated that by the control of water excellent crops of rice can be grown in this area. Preliminary hydrologic, topographical, soil and water surveys were carried out on the area proposed for the major project. The soils were found to be generally suitable, but water supply is likely to prove a difficult problem. Lake Chilwa's water contains too high a concentration of injurious salts to use without closer investigation and rivers in the area are uncertain for the major scheme. A possible dam site for water storage proved impracticable. An alternative scheme, harnessing two rivers in the area with sufficient water to irrigate 2,500 acres is now under investigation. This project was started when there was a world shortage of rice, but with present over-production it is doubtful whether the implementation of the major scheme could be justified at the present time. Nevertheless, the information gained will be of value should economic circumstances change in the future.

For the second year in succession the Nyasaland Agricultural Society held its annual show at Chichiri (Blantyre). The most notable feature of the show was the great improvement in quality and condition of the cattle classes. Fourteen African Agricultural Shows were held and were largely organized by African committees. A few African farmers also competed successfully in the produce classes at the Nyasaland Agricultural Society's Show at Blantyre and the Lilongwe Agricultural Society's Show at Lilongwe. Government Departments entered exhibits of a high standard at these shows.

The headquarters staff of the Agricultural Department, during the year, included the Director, the Deputy Director and an Assistant Director. The field staff, which is distributed on a Provincial basis, has an establishment of four Chief Agricultural Officers, 25 Agricultural Officers, six Principal Agricultural Supervisors, 49 Agricultural Supervisors, one Development Assistant, two Conservation Assistants,

three Principal Agricultural Instructors, 246 Agricultural Instructors, 551 Assistant Agricultural Instructors and 55 Laboratory Assistants, Field Assistants and Recorders. Research and technical officers, responsible to the Director of Agriculture, were stationed according to their duties. In addition to the Chief Agricultural Research Officer, research staff included a Research Officer, an Entomologist, two Agricultural Chemists, an Ecologist, two Plant Pathologists and two Tea Research Officers. The posts of the Research Officer, Entomologist and one Agricultural Officer were vacant at the end of 1955; nine agricultural officers were still under training prior to taking up their appointments in Nyasaland. The Water Development Branch establishment included a Chief Water Development Engineer, four Water Development Engineers, five Hydrological Assistants and three Technical Hydrological Assistants. The total establishment of the Department in 1955 was 1,467.

The Water Development Branch continued the study of surface water resources of the Territory; it also dealt with water licence applications and gave advice on small dams and irrigation schemes. Although some difficulty was experienced in recruiting staff, activities connected with the Hydrological Survey continued to increase and, during the year, 159 river gauging stations were in operation throughout the Protectorate. The Branch also continued to supply hydrological information to the Consulting Engineers for the Shire Valley Project, for which responsibility has been assumed by the Federal Government.

The determination of silt loads by means of river gauging was continued and sufficient information was obtained in this way to prepare soil erosion maps for both the Southern and Northern Provinces. By the end of the year the number of evaporation measurement stations had increased to 23.

Observation of the Lake Nyasa water level was helped by the construction of a third Automatic Recorder. Records showed a seiche of a few inches, particularly at Monkey Bay. During the year, all Lake-shore gauges were adjusted to correspond in level with that at Fort Johnston, thus making them of use for mariners.

Preliminary reconnaissance work was carried out to investigate the possibilities of large scale rice and cotton growing, under irrigation, in the Karonga District. The Branch also supervised a survey of the irrigation potential of the Palombe and Sombani Rivers by a private firm of surveyors, in connection with the Lake Chilwa Rice Scheme.

The construction of controlled irrigation works at the Sombani Rice Scheme pilot plot was completed early in the year. This pilot scheme covered 100 acres and although site clearance did not commence until June, 1954, the pumping plant was put into commission in January, 1955, and 65 acres were under production by the middle of the year.

Increasing use was made of the Branch in its advisory capacity and a large amount of such work emanated from water licence applications and enquiries. In many cases plans produced by applicants lacked technical detail and the Branch was able to assist with small surveys and outline designs. In this way designs and estimates of costs were prepared for small dams, pumping systems and water supply weirs. Facts and figures concerning river flow were supplied for prospective users and selected figures published monthly in the "*Nyasaland Times*".

Investigation into water resources was made for both the Blantyre and Zomba water supplies and at Lilongwe, in order to obtain reliable flow figures for future use, the Branch built a gauging weir on the Lilongwe River.

In addition to these activities opportunities were taken to publicize the importance of the Protectorate's water resources. At the Agricultural Show, held near Blantyre in June, a model hydroelectric power station was exhibited, together with photographs and maps, to illustrate the work of hydrologic survey. Later in the year, a mobile pictorial and map display, demonstrated at several small agricultural shows, sponsored by the Administration in the Northern Province, attracted considerable interest from Africans.

VETERINARY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The year was favourable for livestock, the rains were prolonged late into the year and there was no shortage of grazing in the dry season. Water supplies were good and there was no necessity to close dip tanks because of lack of water, as has happened frequently in the past. Indeed, during the early part of the year, local flooding occurred which accentuated the miseries of cattle kept under primitive housing conditions, and emphasised the importance of the Departmental schemes for the improvement of cattle kraals.

The annual livestock census again showed a steady increase in the number of cattle in spite of the steady drain imposed by the slaughter stock requirements of the Southern townships and African consumption. The total cattle population is now in the region of 307,000, an increase of 14,000 over last year, although the small stock population remained relatively static. This latter trend is an indication of the number of small stock slaughtered in the Protectorate and of the meat shortage, which became particularly acute towards the end of the dry season. The majority of the cattle are to be found in the Central and Northern Provinces of the country, but it is in the Central Province where the steadiest increase in stock took place. Concurrent with the increase in the numbers of livestock there was an improvement in the quality of stock kept on estates, which was borne out by the numbers of pedigree and high grade animals imported. sixty cattle, one ram, seven pigs, 18 horses and 50 donkeys were imported.

The establishment of the Veterinary Department consisted of 598 employees of all grades. During 1955 the recruitment of senior staff improved to such an extent that only three vacancies in the higher grades remained unfilled at the end of the year. One of these was caused by the resignation of the Senior Veterinary Research Officer for whom it has not yet been possible to recruit a replacement.

The work of the laboratory in Blantyre was put back by the departure of the Senior Veterinary Research Officer. A Laboratory Technician was, however, recruited early in the year and a second Veterinary Research Officer entered the laboratory in June. Diagnostic procedure continued to form the main occupation of the laboratory staff and, despite an early setback at the beginning of the year, the routine diagnostic service was maintained at the same level as in 1954. Fowl typhoid and S.19 contagious abortion vaccine were produced as well as an experimental quantity of alum precipitated formalised black-quarter vaccine. One of the Veterinary Research Officers attended the Rabies Seminar convened at Muguga in Kenya under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and the International Bureau of Epizootic Diseases. The occasion was unique in that some of the most eminent authorities on rabies in the world were enlisted to give practical instruction on techniques, and were available for discussion of the problems involved in rabies control. A considerable amount of valuable information was obtained and will be available for use in connection with the production of a rabies vaccine.

In addition to the diagnostic work, investigations were made into the control of coccidiosis in poultry and the content of arsenic in the livers of cattle slaughtered in township abattoirs. The object of the first investigation was to ascertain the most economical amount of various coccidial drugs to be added to the ration to prevent clinical symptoms of the infection, and of the latter to ascertain what level of arsenic may be expected to accumulate in the livers of normal cattle subjected to arsenical dipping, which will be a factor to be considered in the diagnosis of cases of suspected arsenic poisoning. A number of diseases were diagnosed for the first time in Nyasaland, these were Newcastle disease of poultry, enterotoxaemia of sheep, Rift Valley fever, and Wesselbron virus disease.

The diseases causing the greatest losses amongst the cattle population of the country were again those carried by ticks, and efforts to reduce the absenteeism at the dip tanks and thus increase the numbers treated in the dipping areas continued. Cases of East Coast fever were encountered in the Central Province North of Dedza and in the Northern Province. The only two cases of this disease diagnosed in the Southern Province occurred in slaughter stock from the Central Province, prompt control measures, however, prevented any spread of the disease. The Southern Province was not without its own problems resulting from tick-borne diseases, and there was a number of cases of piroplasmiasis, many of which were cerebral in type, and some cases of

heartwater, although the latter showed a significant reduction on the numbers diagnosed in previous years. Two steel prefabricated dip tanks were ordered from England but although all preparations were made for installing them, owing to their late delivery it was not possible to complete the work before the onset of the rains in November.

Treatment for trypanosomiasis in the grazing areas contiguous to the tsetse fly belts continued, and indeed there was no indication that the efforts of the Department in this direction could be relaxed. In the Karonga District there was an increase in the number of cases diagnosed microscopically, in comparison with last year. It is not thought, however, that this represented an extension of the tsetse fly belt. In the Lower River area of the Southern Province, a considerable number of cattle were treated for suspected trypanosomiasis, and since all cases were due to *Trypanosoma vivax* there is a strong probability that a considerable number of the cases were due to mechanical transmission from biting flies as distinct from cyclical transmission through tsetse flies. There was an increase in the number of cases in the Dedza Lake-shore area but treatment was given as soon as the cases were discovered and there was very little mortality.

During the course of the year much work was done on the treatment of animals, including pet animals, for diseases and conditions not covered by statute. It is apparent that, as the townships enlarge, and the quality of the stock on the estates improves, more of the time of Veterinary Officers will be taken up in services of this nature. Animals presented at the surgeries in Blantyre and Zomba for treatment increased by a considerable number over the previous year.

The number of cases of rabies diagnosed histologically and biologically at the laboratory increased slightly in comparison with the previous year but this was not a true indication of the prevalence of the disease. The most disturbing feature during the year was the spread to parts of the country which had hitherto remained comparatively free; Kasungu, Dowa Lake-shore and Ncheu all became infected areas. Outbreaks occurred in most of the populated areas of the Southern Province, and it became necessary to impose a tie-up order in Limbe, Blantyre and Lilongwe. Diagnosis of the disease in African areas is often difficult and to gain an indication of its spread the Medical Department was asked to report the localities where human treatment had been requested for dog bites. 73 such reports were received and investigated, and, although in many cases the dog responsible for the bite had been killed and the carcass destroyed by carrion eaters, it was possible to direct dog control teams to suspected areas. Combined with the destruction of stray dogs, vaccination on a voluntary basis was carried out with Flury strain virus vaccine. In all nearly 1,700 doses of vaccine were administered, and 6,000 stray dogs destroyed, mainly by teams operating in the Central Province.

Development continued on the Livestock Improvement Centres, which are situated in each Province. The nucleus herds of indigenous stock thrived during the year and the first heifers bred on the farms,

from dams purchased in the African trust areas, began to calve down and to come into milk. Little difficulty was experienced in getting them to let down their milk in the absence of their calves and bucket feeding of indigenous calves was established as a routine. The pedigree and high grade stock at Mikolongwe maintained excellent condition, which was reflected in the success of the stock exhibited at the Nyasaland Agricultural Show, where the Departmental herds from Mikolongwe obtained more prizes than any other breeder. The Department imported the Champion Bull and bred the Reserve Champion Bull and the Champion Heifer of the Show.

The training centres at Mikolongwe and Mbawa operated with the full complement of students for the one year's course. The first course came to an end in October and the proportion of students obtaining a pass was gratifyingly high. The emphasis of the course was on practical application of the principles learnt and it is already evident that Veterinary Assistants trained at the centres will provide a valuable addition to the staff.

A considerable amount of work was done in connection with the Poultry Centre during the course of the year. The buildings were almost completed and the majority of the equipment purchased and installed. The incubator and brooder equipment is electrically operated, power being obtained from a 12 kwt generator. Breeding pens and deep litter houses have been built; the latter to a prefabricated pattern in order to demonstrate to poultry keepers the ease with which this type of house can be built. The breeding flocks suffered few losses from disease during the year; the quality of these birds was recognized by the large number of trophies awarded to them at the Agricultural Show in Blantyre.

The cattle kraal improvement scheme continued during 1955 and gained impetus in all areas, particularly in the Central Province. The importance of this scheme, which aims to eradicate the present primitive unhygienic cattle kraals with their consequent deleterious effects, particularly on the health of young cattle, cannot be over emphasised. The scheme consists of providing material, skilled assistance, and advice, to those people wishing to improve their cattle kraals; where kraals are constructed by the owners themselves, using their own materials, a money subsidy is awarded towards the cost, provided that the construction of the kraal conforms to the standard recommended by the Department. Wherever possible actual assistance in building kraals is spread over a wide area, thus making the improved kraals more easily available as examples to cattle owners, who may then copy the design and construct their own. The material used in the construction of these kraals depends upon the supply of timber or brick-making facilities; where neither is easy it is necessary to resort to wire paddocking. The last has many disadvantages in that manure tends to be lost by leaching, and it can only be used in areas where the larger predators are uncommon, but it does represent a big advance on the traditional primitive and unhygienic buildings. The greatest advance during the

year was made in the Central Province, where 504 roofed timber kraals, 10 brick cattle kraals and 84 wire paddocks were constructed. As explained this does not represent the total achievement, since the example has been enthusiastically copied in many cases. Some indication of the beneficial effects on the health of the local cattle as a result of this scheme may be gained from the fact that in one village, where all the kraals for adult cattle and calves were properly constructed, only one out of 241 calves born during the year died.

Donkeys owned by the Department were used during the year for district travelling and for many duties on Veterinary stations. A number were sold, when fully trained, to African farmers.

Meat shortage in the Southern townships was accentuated during the year by the restrictions imposed by the Portuguese Authorities on the sale of stock from Portuguese East Africa. In previous years the sale of some 2,500 cattle from these sources proved a welcome addition to the meat supply. Approaches were made to the Portuguese Authorities during the year in an effort to renew the trade on a better organized and more satisfactory basis.

The policy to centralize and avoid undue cruelty in cattle slaughter outside the larger population centres, by building slaughter slabs and supplying humane killers, continued and a great deal of progress was made. Unsuccessful attempts were made to establish a marketing system in the Central Province; these failed due to the sellers' inability to appreciate the principles of auctioneering, and to their persistence in demanding prices far in excess of current exchange values.

Further experiments were made to find a route to export slaughter stock from the Northern Province to the South. A stock route from Hora Hill, in the North of Mzimba District, to Salima, the railhead in the Central Province, was surveyed and night kraals built and spray points established. At the height of the dry season a group of oxen were purchased by the Department, driven along the stock route to Salima and from there transported to Blantyre by rail. The movement was successful in that the cattle travelled well, but condemnations at slaughter caused a small net loss over the whole movement. It is evident that the route followed, and the method of transport used, represented an economical way of moving stock in quantity from the North to the South.

The supply of dairy products to the community in the South was adequate, and indeed the production of best grade milk was in excess of demand at one period of the year. Lilongwe township and other large centres of population in the Central and Northern Provinces, which depend on more casual African supplies, suffered from a severe shortage in the dry season. A considerable quantity of ghee was produced in the Northern Province and the total quantity of dairy products produced there during the year were valued at £10,000, of which some £500 represented produce from the dairy schemes centred on the Mbawa Livestock Improvement Centre.

During the course of the year 46,825 units of hides and skins were exported to Southern Rhodesia, representing an increase of 6,441 units over the previous year. In addition 2,987 crocodile skins were exported, a reduction of nearly 32 per cent. on the previous year. The year was not a happy one for the exporters, prices of hides and skins on world markets continuing to fluctuate. One of the firms was forced to withdraw from the Northern Province because of rising transport and supervision costs.

F O R E S T R Y

Nyasaland's Forest Estate comprises some 3,087 square miles of constituted forest reserves out of an estimated wooded area of 7,000 square miles. In addition there are some 376 square miles of forest land on private estates. The greater part of this area consists of savannah-woodland in which the genus *Brachystegia* is the main constituent; true high forest, estimated at only 212 square miles, is mainly restricted to the tops of hills and mountains. There is no doubt that the character of the forest vegetation has been greatly altered and modified over a long period by almost universal cultivation and burning and that the present small areas of true forest are only relics of former and much larger areas.

Forest reserves are, generally speaking, already well distributed throughout the country, and have been chosen mainly for their protective value. Most of the main mountain features and a proportion of the Rift Valley escarpments are now protected, but considerable areas still remain to be reserved, the main aim of Nyasaland's forest policy being to reserve and protect, as far as possible, all forest lands on catchments and steep mountainsides, that is, all lands which are unsuitable for permanent agriculture or pasture.

The main task of the Department of Forestry is one of land management, with two primary objects in view, namely to manage and develop the Forest Estate in order to improve its protective capacity, and, at the same time, to increase its productive capacity. Improvement of protective capacity is to a great extent a matter of protection from damage by fire and careful regulation of growth, in some areas by conservation and tending of natural vegetation, in others by the actual planting of trees. Productive capacity can be increased by the introduction of silvicultural management in natural forest and woodland and also by planting and introduction of valuable species into areas which are either totally unproductive or whose productive capacity under natural vegetation is low.

In common with many other African territories, great interest has always been shown in Nyasaland in the introduction and cultivation of exotic trees, whose growth is demonstrably faster than that of the indigenous kinds. The best example in Nyasaland of a most successful and useful introduction is the Eucalyptus, which has proved its worth by giving timber, poles and firewood for many years. More recent

introductions have been the conifers, of which certain kinds of pines and cypresses can produce universally required softwood timber within comparatively few years.

Nyasaland is also fortunate in the possession of a wide range of fine indigenous timbers and their development and increase is a prime task of forestry. To mention but a few, there are the softwoods, Mlanje cedar (*Widdringtonia whytei*), Pencil cedar (*Juniperus procera*) and Yellowwood (*Podocarpus milanjanus*). Amongst hardwoods there are the mahoganies, mbawa (*Khaya nyasica*), mukarikari (*Entandrophragma stolzii*) and napalali (*E. caudatum*). There are also mlombwa (*Pterocarpus angolensis*), mwenya (*Adina microcephala*), mvule (*Chlorophora excelsa*) and many others. All these may occur at present in limited quantities, but there is obviously very great scope for development and extension of their range. Another useful indigenous species is the tsanya or mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) whose possibilities have so far hardly been developed. Lastly, mention should be made of Nyasaland's wealth of bamboos (*Oxytenanthera abyssinica*), which are already in everyday use in enormous quantities.

The past year has seen further expansion of the Department's activities and after the rapid build-up of the Department's staff it was possible to consolidate and give detailed attention to tasks of immediate importance, of which continuation of reservation of the country's Forest Estate is the most important. No new reserves were gazetted during the year, but preliminary work was virtually completed in respect of four areas in the Northern Province, three in the Central Province and four in the Southern Province. Survey work progressed in connection with a land-use scheme, which provides for the incorporation of a further area into the Mlanje mountain Forest Reserve. In addition, a considerable amount of reconnaissance work was undertaken, particularly in respect of areas in the Rift Valley, which have a definite timber potential.

The development of intensively-managed softwood, or softwood/hardwood afforestation areas is now proceeding satisfactorily, based on the conception of the 3,000 acre "afforestation unit" with its complement of staff, transport, road system, office, stores and dwellings.

During the year the Zomba Mountain Unit was subdivided into the Plateau unit and the Mountain unit. The existing afforestation units are as follows:—

Northern Province

- (1) Chikangawa Forest, on the Vipya Plateau.

Central Province

- (2) Nchisi Forest on Nchisi Mountain.
- (3) Dedza Forest on Dedza Mountain.

Southern Province

- (4) Zomba Plateau Forest on Zomba Mountain Plateau.
- (5) Zomba Mountain Forest on Zomba Mountain Slopes.
- (6) Chigamula Forest } near Limbe
- Kanjedza Forest }
- (7) Ndirande Forest near Blantyre.
- (8) Chambe Forest on Mlanje Mountain.

In addition to these "afforestation units" there are the following "experimental areas" or plantations:—

Northern Province

- (1) Kalwe, near Nkata Bay.
- (2) Mtangatanga, adjacent to the Vipya.

Central Province

- (3) Namilombwa at Lilongwe.
- (4) Bunda. In Lilongwe District.
- (5) Chongoni. Near Dedza.

Southern Province

- (6) Masambanjati. In the Cholo District.
- (7) Likabula. On Mlanje Mountain.

Working Plans for Chikangawa Forest and the two experimental areas, Kalwe and Mtangatanga in the Northern Province, were completed and compilation of Working Plans for the Central and Southern Province units progressed.

Zomba and Dedza forests were photographed from the air in July with highly satisfactory results and the contoured maps are now awaited. Assistance was provided in the form of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant for further air-survey to cover all existing afforestation units and a number of areas for future development. The Department carried out ground control on Zomba and Malosa Mountains during the year.

The provision of adequate staff and labour accommodation of a permanent nature is an essential part of intensive forest management and the Department is faced with a heavy task until the position in each unit can be regarded as satisfactory. During the year a big programme was undertaken by the Department, including the building of two European houses, while a third European house was let out to contract. A fourth house, on Zomba Mountain, was purchased by Government for the Department's use.

In addition to buildings, construction of roads and bridges is another formidable task on which the Department is engaged. In 1955 19 miles of roads and four bridges were constructed.

Fire protection is a vital matter in a country such as Nyasaland which experiences a long dry season. At the afforestation centres further development of communications took place and fire towers were constructed during the year. Pack water-pumps arrived during the year and were of great assistance in extinguishing several fires.

Equipment for afforestation work such as trucks, light tractors and trailers arrived during the year. The provision of such transport, quite apart from its normal uses, makes it possible to get as many men as possible to the scene of a fire within the shortest possible time.

The widespread and often uncontrolled burning of grass and bush, which occurs each year in Nyasaland from July to November, is a source of constant anxiety to the Department, and a disturbing feature is the apparent increases in the number of fires which are intentionally lit, either for hunting purposes or with the apparent deliberate intention of doing damage to property and tree plantations. It is indeed fortunate that the majority of trees in savanna woodland are extremely fire-resistant, and are not killed by the annual burning. The same applies to Eucalyptus, which, although the foliage may be completely scorched, is not killed outright as are pines and other conifers. But although they survive, growth is considerably checked and severe scorching of the bole causes fire-scars which frequently ruin the timber in the butt log.

The Department's measures for preventing damage by fire to the Forest Estate take two forms, namely total protection of all plantations and high forest areas where staff and labour are sufficiently concentrated to detect and extinguish any fires which may occur, and controlled burning in the remote areas where total protection is impossible. Total protection of certain plateaux of Mlanje Mountain has been successfully carried out since 1949 and has been extended to cover the whole mountain, apart from the *Brachystegia* clad outer slopes, where early-burning is carried out as a precautionary measure. Similarly, total protection is carried out on Zomba Mountain, of which the plateau is the catchment of the stream forming the township's water supply. Elsewhere, the aim is to institute total protection of all important catchments, but in general this will not be practicable until there is a greater concentration of staff and labour. Recourse has therefore to be made to early burning, in order to forestall fierce late fires and to mitigate the worst damage.

As in 1954, the effect of such operations on the Vipya and Nyika plateaux was most noticeable and in October the patchwork of burnt and unburnt areas afforded an interesting contrast to the scene in 1953 when uncontrolled fires swept the plateaux from end to end. Similar results were achieved in the savannah woodlands of the Forest Estate, where early burning has been carried out for many years. In the majority of these, growth of fire-resistant species is relatively unaffected by early-burning, provided it is carefully controlled.

In 1955 very dry weather persisted until the third week of November. Altogether 22 fires were reported, eight within Forest Reserves where negligible damage was done, and 14 within plantations where 75 acres of young trees were destroyed. Of these, 73 acres were burnt in two fires, which were caused by carelessness.

Very good rains fell during the past season and conditions were favourable for planting operations throughout the country. 3,868 acres were planted by the Department, consisting of 1,765 acres of new planting (afforestation), 130 acres of experimental plantations, 43 acres of replanting felled areas, and 1,930 acres of replanting areas, which failed owing to the severe drought in the Southern Province in 1954. The area of Government plantations established at the end of the year totalled 13,518 acres, of which the majority were pines, cypresses and Mlanje cedar. Planting of *Eucalyptus saligna* continued on private estates, but the acreage established is not known. The total area of private plantations (mostly *Eucalyptus*) is estimated to be in the region of 16,000 acres.

The experimental plantations established by the Department during the past five years are now beginning to show interesting results, the main species under trial being *Gmelina acborea*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Eucalyptus* spp., *Pinus massoniana*, and *Tectona grandis* (Teak). Further experimental planting of *Tectona grandis* was carried out in the Cholomwani and Massenjere forests in Cholo and Port Herald Districts where warmth, combined with a high rainfall, indicated possibly suitable conditions. Growth since planting in January has been most impressive. For next season's planting, stocks of teak and Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) have been raised, and also two pines which may be suitable for low altitude planting, namely *Pinus khasya* and *Pinus hondurensis*. At Nkata Bay in the Northern Province trials were made of *Entandrophragma utile*, *Entandrophragma angolensis* and *Khaya anthotheca*, mahoganies from Uganda, and also of *Khaya senegalensis*, the mahogany of the West African savannah-woodland. Very promising early growth was made in the nursery and the first planting will be made in the coming season. Trial planting of Mvule (*Chlorophora excelsa*) continued at several centres, and experimental planting of large cuttings of Mlombwa (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) at Nkata Bay has already produced interesting results.

The growth of Poplar (*Populus deltoides*) from cuttings sent by the Lion Match Company from Natal varied with the location, but on at least one estate was most encouraging. The Company's representative paid a second visit to Nyasaland during the year and a further supply of cuttings was received. In addition to *Populus deltoides*, the Department introduced *Populus nigra* from Cyprus, and the evergreen Chilean poplar (*P. nigra* variety) and *Populus wizlizenii* from South Africa.

Further progress was made during the year on the erection of the mill shed for the Departmental sawmill at Blantyre and on the levelling

of the site for storage of Government timber stocks. The total volume of local timber handled by the Utilization Branch were 58,534 cu. ft. of which 55,514 cu. ft. were from Government plantations at Limbe and Zomba. The timber sawn in the temporary mill mainly consisted of small-sized logs from thinnings in the Zomba plantations and cypresses from clear-felling operations in the Kanjedza plantations at Limbe.

The timber impregnation plant at the Blantyre sawmill was in operation throughout the year and both creosote and "Tanalith" treatment was carried out. The total quantity of timber treated was 46,480 cu. ft.

The following figures show the approximate outturn of various classes of forest produce under Government Licence on control during the year:—

<i>Class of Produce</i>	<i>Forest Reserves (Cu. ft.)</i>	<i>African trust land (Cu. ft.)</i>	<i>Total (Cu. ft.)</i>
Softwood timber	149,400 ..	— ..	149,400
Hardwood timber	25,780 ..	285,920 ..	311,700
Roundwood	60,130 ..	126,680 ..	186,810
Firewood	1,147,860 ..	1,688,840 ..	2,836,700
TOTAL	1,383,170	2,101,440	3,484,610

Revenue from the sale of forest produce from Forest Reserves during the year was £25,643, and from African trust land £24,510. Total revenue was £50,153.

Production figures for private estates are not available, but the outturn, mainly eucalyptus timber, poles and firewood, was considerable. During the year large quantities of eucalyptus firewood both from plantations and indigenous woodland were cut and sold for brick-burning, the present building boom, particularly in the Blantyre/Limbe area, having created a very great demand for bricks. The quantity of poles, fuel and other forest produce annually taken free by the African population from African trust land is enormous but incalculable and represents a colossal annual drain on the available woodlands, particularly in the heavily-populated areas.

Funds were provided from a Colonial Development and Welfare grant for the establishment of a Sylvicultural Research Station and a Training School. A suitable site for these was selected in the Chongoni Forest Reserve near Dedza, where a borehole drilled during September revealed an ample water supply. Work began on construction of houses, but the Sylviculturist, who was recruited during the year, has not yet arrived. This Station, situated amongst pine plantations in an important softwood-growing area, is near the Mua-Livulezi and Rift Valley hardwood forests and within easy reach of the main tobacco-growing area of the Central Province, where experimental work in connection with dry-zone afforestation is being conducted.

The authorized establishment of the Department during the year consisted of the Conservator of Forests, a Deputy Conservator of Forests, 12 Assistant Conservators, 15 Forest Assistants, a Sylviculturist, a Mill Manager, a Mill Foreman, a Saw Doctor, a Works Supervisor, a Secretary, an Assistant Accountant, a Storekeeper Accountant, a Departmental Assistant, 25 Clerks, three Forest Rangers, 45 Foresters and Assistant Foresters, two Survey Assistants, 167 Forest Guards and Patrolmen, 89 Afforestation Capitaos and Nurserymen, 13 Messengers and Storemen, four Foremen and Foremen Sawyers, five Sawyers, 10 Artisans, 19 Drivers and one First Aid Capitaao.

FISHERIES

Non-African commercial fishing activities were concentrated in the South-east and South-west arms of Lake Nyasa, of which the South-east was the principal field for operations.

Catches by non-African firms continued to increase, the South-eastern arm firms producing 2,500 tons landed weight and those in the South-western arm 130 tons. One of the two firms operating in the South-west was not, however, in action for the last three months of the year. Operations in the South-west were on a small scale compared with those in the South-east and it is apparent that the present lack of adequate communications is an obstacle to the full development of this area.

No new non-African fishing craft were put into action during the year but one firm installed ship-to-shore radio telephones in part of its fleet.

There are now some 11 Africans fishing on a "commercial", as distinct from a "subsistence" basis: three on a quite considerable scale, though all have invested considerable sums of money in nets, boats and engines. One African averaged nine tons a month over the year, another four tons over 10 months, while their scale of operations rivalled those of the smaller non-African firms. Lack of capital hindered the activities of the majority of the other African "commercial" ventures but all save one managed to remain in business.

Distribution of fish remained a problem, particularly during the rains, when catches were at their height. Work has, however, started on the experimental manufacture of fish meal on the "cottage industry" scale, in an attempt to try to overcome distribution difficulties.

The Fisheries Research team at Nkata Bay concluded the major part of their survey of the Northern Lake waters towards the end of the year and departed for Northern Rhodesia, with the exception of one officer, who remained to complete the work.

The broad conclusions of the survey were that the off-shore deeper waters of the Northern Province do not hold any considerable fish

population, but, that there is a considerable unrealized potential in the littoral zone which offers good opportunities for development.

The rise of the "commercial African" in the South and centre of the Protectorate and the continued brisk demand for the small fishing craft, built by the Government Fisheries staff, suggests, that given suitable assistance and encouragement, this development may be accelerated in the near future.

Fish farming trials at Nchenachena, using indigenous *Tilapia*, continued to show promise. The small trial pond, stocked with 16 adult fish and 145 fingerlings in April, 1954, was netted and drained in October, 1955. Including fish previously removed for examination, and also those taken to stock other waters, the total yield was 28,240 fish at an estimated weight of 2,883 lbs. During the year several more regularly shaped ponds were constructed in a neighbouring valley with more orthodox lines and better control of water than in the trial pond. The ponds were duly stocked in October and November.

Crocodile catching continued at approximately the same rate as in 1954. Some 2,500 reptiles were caught by commercial licensees and the value of the skins was estimated at approximately £12,500.

MINING AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

By virtue of the Nyasaland Protectorate (African Trust Land) Order in Council, 1950, the entire property in minerals in African trust land, save for land which has been alienated by the Crown and land in respect of which prospecting and mining rights subsist, is vested in the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be controlled by the Governor for the use or common benefit, direct or indirect, of the African inhabitants of the Protectorate. The Governor may, subject to existing Protectorate legislation, make grants to search for and work minerals, but in so doing shall have regard to general African interests and, before making any grant for the working of minerals, shall consult the Native Authority of the area concerned.

The British South Africa Company hold mineral rights over large areas of the Protectorate covering the Karonga District and part of the Rumpi District in the Northern Province and the Kasungu, Kota Kota, Lilongwe and Dedza Districts and part of the Dowa District of the Central Province.

The Commissioner of Mines may, under the Mining Ordinance, issue prospecting rights and may register claims while the Governor may grant exclusive prospecting licences and mining leases. Prospecting rights, as also exclusive prospecting licences and claims, allow the recipients to prospect and mine respectively for a period of one year, but they are capable of renewal. Mining leases are available for terms between five and 21 years.

Royalties are payable in respect of all minerals extracted; if on African trust land outside the British South Africa Company's areas, the royalties are payable in part to the Native Treasury concerned and in part to the Protectorate revenue in such proportions as may be determined by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; if on the Company's land, 50 per cent. of the royalties is payable to the Company.

The following minerals are known to exist in the Protectorate, although hitherto comparatively little mining activity has taken place:—

Apatite, asbestos, bauxite, beryl, coal, corundum, fluorspar, felspar, galena, garnet, graphite, ilmenite, iron ore, kyanite, limestone, magnesite, manganese ore, mica, monazite, pyrochlore, rutile, vermiculite, zinc-blende and zircon.

During the year 25 Prospecting Rights were issued and 14 claims renewed. No new claims were registered. At the end of the year one exclusive prospecting licence was extant, and three mining leases, one for the production of monazite and two for quarrying stone. Prospecting for vermiculite in the Southern Province was carried on and there were, at the end of the year, four applications for exclusive prospecting licences from one firm for this purpose. Considerable interest was taken, during the year, in the pyrochlore and apatite deposits existing in the Southern Province, and at the end of the year Exclusive Rights were promised in this area to a mining company. Small quantities of kyanite, corundum and asbestos were exported together with samples of various minerals for analysis.

No processing of minerals is undertaken in the Protectorate. There is at present no separate mining department. The post of Commissioner of Mines, an appointment under the Mining Ordinance, is held by the Secretary, Lands and Mines, an officer of the Secretariat.

The establishment of the Geological Survey Department, during 1955, was 231, consisting of the Director, six Geologists, one Drilling Superintendent, six Drillers, four Assistant Wells Maintenance officers, one Mechanical Supervisor, one Accountant-Storekeeper, two Departmental Assistants, four Clerks and Storekeepers, seven Field Assistants, 19 Drivers, five Wells Maintenance Supervisors, six Foremen Drillers and Drill Overseers, six Blacksmiths, two Mechanics, one Carpenter, six Capitaos, 14 Chainmen, eight Messengers and Watchmen and 131 Miscellaneous Minor Employees.

Geological mapping of the Southern Province continued and further discoveries of vermiculite were made. Tests carried out in London showed the vermiculite to be of good quality and highly suitable for the requirements of overseas markets. Prospecting of the deposits was taken up by a South African company with interests in Northern and Southern Rhodesia.

The Geologist investigating the carbonatite ring structures continued his work. Much interest was shown in the apatite deposit, which he discovered during 1954 at Tundulu Hill. Analyses carried out in London showed that the apatite content was higher than originally reported, being 60 per cent., giving approximately a 25 per cent. Phosphoric Acid (P_2O_5) content and a pyrochlore content of 0.2 per cent. From the surface to a depth of 300 feet the deposit should contain some 3,000,000 tons of apatite.

The mining exploration company engaged in prospecting the pyrochlore deposits on Chilwa Island undertook a drilling programme consisting of over 5,000 feet of coring. Results, from a scientific point of view, were apparently quite satisfactory but the sudden slump in the price of pyrochlore, due to the American Government's abandonment of its 100 per cent. bonus scheme, brought operations to a halt and the whole local organization of the company was closed down. Prospecting rights over the island have, however, been maintained with a view to a resumption of operations when the situation justifies it.

At Kangankunde Hill, little further development has taken place, pending the solution of metallurgical problems connected with the separation of the monazite from other minerals present. Prospecting operations on rutile deposits in the Port Herald District, which were being carried out by the same company, were abandoned.

New ring structures in the Fort Johnston District were investigated but proved to contain very little carbonatite.

Drilling on the limestone deposit by Rhodesia Cement Limited, was brought to a satisfactory conclusion, having proved that the limestone was for the most part of low magnesium content and eminently suitable for the manufacture of cement. The drilling progress was supervised by one of the Department's geologists who also collected, logged and split the cores for sampling. He later investigated deposits of clay near Lirangwe and dispatched samples for analysis.

In 1955, the systematic examination of the principal coalfields was continued. A diamond drilling programme was carried out in the Sumbu-Nkombedzi coalfield in Chikwawa District: 3,456 feet of coring was done at six sites between June and October. The area being rather inaccessible, approximately 25 miles of motorable track had to be constructed, some of it through very broken and difficult country, and, owing to the scarcity of surface water, a borehole was sunk to provide the water for drilling operations. The economic results of the survey were generally disappointing. The structure of the field was shown to be very much more complicated than previous workers believed, and, the faulting being generally intense, greatly reduced the area in which mining would be practicable. Whilst a great thickness of carbonaceous shales was proved, there was found to be much less coal than previous workers had believed. This coal had a high ash

content and could not be materially upgraded without a considerable loss in cleaning. Consequently, it is unlikely that further prospecting will be carried out here, the coal areas near the Lake, both in Nyasaland and Tanganyika, showing greater promise for future commercial exploitation.

Between August and October a detailed surface examination of the Nkana Coalfield on the Songwe River, in the extreme North of the country, was carried out. The results of this survey indicate that at least 14,000,000 tons of workable coal exist within 500 feet of the surface and it has been recommended that, in order to obtain fresh coal samples for analysis to provide a more accurate and reliable estimate of the available tonnage and to give an indication of the level of the underground water table in the possible mining area, a scout drilling programme be undertaken.

A geologist of the Atomic Energy Division of the United Kingdom Geological Survey was lent to this Territory for three months, to investigate several areas, where radio-active minerals had been discovered, in the course of geological mapping. Although his report has not yet been received no deposits of economic grade are known to have been discovered.

Geological advice continued to be given to the Shire Valley Project consulting engineers, and cores from diamond drill holes, sunk on proposed dam sites, were examined and described.

Construction of a new headquarters building for the Geological Survey Department was started by the Public Works Department, as the existing offices have proved inadequate to cope with the increase in size of the Department during recent years.

As in previous years, the Water Supply Section continued to provide water for African village communities, by the sinking and equipping of boreholes. Including those constructed for other Government Departments, a total of 94 boreholes were successfully completed during the year. The average yield was 790 gallons per hour, but varied considerably for individual boreholes, rising as high as 3,000 gallons per hour in the case of two holes drilled at Dowa to supply the new township. The total footage drilled amounted to nearly 14,000 feet while the average depth for successful boreholes was 132½ feet. The ratio of success over the year's drilling was 91.26 per cent. All holes were sited on the results of geophysical surveys carried out by resistivity methods.

In addition, 44 geophysical surveys were carried out for private individuals or estates, and, although a scheme of rebates for farmers on unsuccessful boreholes was introduced early in the year, by the end of the period, no claims had been received.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The main local industry in the Protectorate is the manufacture of cigarettes and tobacco. The principal firm concerned is the United

Tobacco Company, whose factory, situated at Limbe, again increased production to keep pace with local demands.

Messrs. Lever Brothers (Rhodesia) Limited (formerly the Citrona Soap Company) produced the bulk of Nyasaland's soap requirements and achieved a record manufacture of 1,775 tons of soap during the year, compared with the 1954 figure of 1,440 tons. In addition 415 tons of edible oil and fat were produced.

The two principal manufacturers of clothing in the Protectorate, the London and Blantyre Supply Company's factory at Lilongwe and the Nyasaland Clothing Factory, Limbe, had a successful year. New machines were installed in each factory and the range of garments produced was increased. A number of branded garments was put on the market and small quantities of clothing were exported to the Rhodesias.

A small firm in the Southern Province, making full use of an industrial waste product, is Nyasaland Tobacco Products. By an extraction process nicotine sulphate is produced from tobacco waste and commands a select and lucrative market in the Union of South Africa, where it is further processed into a powerful insecticide. The annual output of the firm, varying between 6,000 lbs. and 30,000 lbs. per annum, dependent on the demand and the amount of scrap tobacco available, was 27,000 lbs. in 1955.

A cement mill for the Rhodesia Cement Company was under construction in Blantyre during the year. Initially, clinker will be sent by rail from Rhodesia for conversion to cement, but investigations into limestone deposits are in process near Zomba and should these prove satisfactory, it is intended to manufacture clinker locally to supply the Blantyre grinding mill.

The Nyasaland Oil Industries is erecting an oil seed expression factory at Chiromo to process cotton and other oil seeds with the intention of producing edible oil and seed cake.

The Sunrho Company opened a granadilla juice extraction factory in the Blantyre area during the year and arrangements were made with growers in the Cholo area, where over 200 acres of granadilla have been planted, for the supply of adequate quantities of this fruit. The juice is sold in a concentrated form to fruit cordial manufacturers.

During the year construction started in Blantyre on a mineral water factory, manufacturing the normal range of mineral waters and also Coca Cola.

The Nyasaland Plywood Company, which has a factory at Luchenza, stopped producing plywood boxes and shooks and confined its activities to the extraction of Mlanje Cedar only. Over 115,000 cubic feet of timber were produced by this firm during 1955.

Among handicrafts practised in the Protectorate are carpentry, ivory and wood carving, pottery, basketry and weaving of mats, but

none of these is sufficiently far developed to be styled an industry. Mat weaving, for example, is to the male Yao much what knitting is to the European woman. The products of these crafts play an important part in village life, and, apart from this, find a ready market among tourists and European residents, either for utilitarian purposes or as curios. No state aid is given in respect of these crafts nor are there any credit societies connected with them. Government does, however, run cobbling and tanning courses at Lilongwe for those Africans who wish to become cobblers.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

At the beginning of 1955, 67 co-operative societies were on the Register. During the year six dairy produce and eight rice growers' societies were registered, while the registrations of one dairy produce and four consumer societies were cancelled. The numbers, types and membership of the societies on the Register at 31st December, 1955, are as follows:—

<i>Type of Society</i>				<i>Number of Societies</i>	<i>Membership</i>
(i) PRIMARY SOCIETIES					
Dairy Producer	..	..	41	..	994
Rice-Growers Producer	..	..	11	..	2,640
Coffee Producer	..	..	2	..	328
Maize Milling ..	..	..	1	..	41
Traders Supply	..	..	1	..	50
Produce Society	..	..	1	..	111
Consumer	..	..	13	..	1,102
				70	5,266
(ii) SECONDARY SOCIETIES					
Northern Co-operative Union	..	..	1	..	6
Unions of Dairy Societies	..	..	2	..	36
Unions of Rice Societies	..	..	3	..	11
				6	53

Rice. The main field of expansion during 1955 has been in rice growers' societies. The Kilupula Union of primary rice societies further increased its scope and membership, and purchased during the buying season a record crop of 2,107 tons of paddy. The paddy crop of 1954 had been satisfactorily milled by the Union into a high grade rice which found a very ready market in the Rhodesias for an average price of nearly £78 per ton. Approximately 900 tons of this rice were disposed of by May, 1955. A bonus of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb for all paddy bought from members during 1954 was paid in July, and considerable sums were set aside in reserve. The net disposable surplus from the year's trading,

after deduction of all relevant charges, was £20,130. In the Southern Province the two existing rice growers primary societies were united in the Shire River Rice Growers Union Limited. Paddy purchases by these societies totalled 646 tons, as against approximately 60 tons in 1954. In Native Authority Kawinga's area, near Zomba, a new rice organization was set up comprising five primary societies united into the Machinga Rice Growers Co-operative Union Limited. In his area (relatively untried hitherto from a buying point of view) the response to the co-operative buying organization was most enthusiastic, and no less than 865 tons of paddy were purchased during the season, and transported to Limbe for milling.

In the light of the high prices obtaining for milled rice at the beginning of the year, the "buying in" rice of paddy was fixed at 2½d per lb for all co-operative organizations throughout the Protectorate. In July, however, world prices declined sharply and the average price of foreign rice offered c.i.f. Beira dropped to about £39 per ton. In order to stimulate local production of rice the Federal authorities agreed to an internal selling price of £60 per ton for Nyasaland rice throughout the Federation. It is, however, anticipated that approximately 4,000 tons of milled rice will be available in 1956, which will probably exceed the federal internal demand, especially for the lower grades of rice for which no important markets appear at present to be available. Thus the co-operative rice societies, after achieving a record season of paddy production, face the dismal prospect of being unable to sell considerable stocks of paddy unless an increase in demand takes place in the Federation before the 1956 crop becomes available. It is now becoming increasingly evident that, so far as rice marketing is concerned, high prices and easy profits have disappeared and the co-operative societies must therefore be prepared, under present conditions, to face a future of rigid economy with small returns.

Ghee. Steady progress was maintained throughout the year in this industry. Ghee production reached the record figure of 46,300 lbs. for the year as against 42,000 lbs. for 1954 and 31,000 lbs. in 1953. The total value of ghee sales amounted to £8,200 as against £7,300 in 1954 and £5,400 in 1953. It was possible, towards the end of the year, to arrange a new system for the transport and sale of ghee which brought a greatly increased return to the Societies, and has already enabled the two ghee-unions to make further repayments against their capital loans from Native Development and Welfare Funds which are now almost paid off. It is interesting to note that as recently as 1947 in the Bulambia area the price paid for milk to the producer was 2d per gallon. In 1955 the average price paid (in first payment and bonus) over all the primary societies in the area was approximately 1s per gallon. Plans have now been completed for the installation in early 1956 of an up-to-date ghee canning plant at Rumpi, where the total ghee production of the Northern Province will be collected monthly and marketed from there in non-returnable containers, in which the

ghee can be kept unaffected for an indefinite period. This should have the effect of widening the scope of the ghee market, and balancing supply and demand throughout the Protectorate during seasonal fluctuations in production.

Coffee. The Nchenachena and Misuku coffee producers societies made very satisfactory progress during the year. The extension of gardens and the planting of new trees, which has been a feature of the last three years in both areas, is becoming more extensive, and the demand for seedlings more difficult to meet. A system of short-term coffee credits, to enable growers to extend their gardens and to use improved methods of care and cultivation, was started at the beginning of the year; loans so far made amount to £264. The coffee nurseries in both areas were taken over by the societies, in order to give them a closer interest and understanding of the problems of the industry. Fertilizer was made available by both societies for all members at a sub-economic price, in order to encourage its use by growers as a standard practice. Under these conditions the extension of gardens and the volume of planting has increased very rapidly, although the considerable subsidy element provided by the societies for their members has made the payment of a high bonus to growers on the 1954/55 crop impracticable. The total crop purchased for the year was 17,953 lbs, of which about 90 per cent. was Grade I. This figure showed a shortfall on the 1953/54 total of 18,599 lbs., but was due to an abnormally dry season. The crop was valued at £375 per long ton, and after all internal demand had been met, the balance of the crop was exported at this price. It was found possible to keep the "buying-in" price and bonus for the crop the same as in 1954, namely a total of 1s-11d per lb. for Grade I parchment coffee sold by members.

The 1955 crop showed the effect of the plantings of the last three years. Up to the end of December over 30,000 lbs of parchment coffee had been bought by the societies, and more was still coming in. At the end of the year an up-to-date mechanical unit was installed by the Northern Co-operative Union at Rumpi for the processing and grading of the crop. This is proving most efficient and when a sample of Grade I bean was sent to Moshi for valuation it was priced at no less than £490 per long ton. Under these promising conditions it is hoped that the coffee societies in the Northern Province will continue to expand rapidly.

The Northern Co-operative Union at Rumpi continued to operate three departments as in previous years. These are the supplies, the transport and the coffee departments:—

(a) The Transport Department provides a transport system over the whole of the Northern Province. Preferential rates for member societies were introduced and guaranteed scheduled runs performed to give a complete monthly service to all areas of the Province. The service, operating one five and one three ton

Bedford lorry, was used extensively, not only by member societies, but also by Government, trading firms and local Africans. The loan, received from Government for the purchase of the three ton lorry, has been completely repaid. The total pay-load mileage run during 1955 was 18,300 miles, and transport receipts amounted to £1,838 despite the introduction of preferential rates.

(b) The Supplies Department continued to expand its services. The value of sales this year amounted to £3,000 for consumer goods, while the sale of petrol and oil produced nearly £3,500 compared with £1,181 in 1954. A service station opened at Chisenga for the convenience of travellers on the North Road functioned satisfactorily. The Department is operating smoothly and provides high-quality goods for members at reasonable prices.

(c) The Coffee Department continued to handle the crop of parchment coffee produced by the primary coffee growers societies. The coffee, mechanically hulled and graded, is hand-sorted to eliminate bad coloured beans. It is then marketed by this Department, partly through local sales in Nyasaland and partly through export. In 1955 18,000 lbs. of parchment coffee were processed, producing 14,400 lbs. of clean bean which were marketed for approximately £2,500.

In addition to coffee processing, this Department operates a maize-mill for the convenience of the local inhabitants, and is making arrangements to provide wheat-flour ground from locally grown wheat bought by the Nchenachena Society.

Consumer Societies. During 1954 a large number of consumer societies were liquidated. Those remaining are in most cases more than holding their own, and with a new system of stock checking and supervision it is hoped to build them up into successful business organizations. A special plan was inaugurated at the end of the year in collaboration with the management of the Nyasaland Railways for setting up a co-operative supply organization which will cater eventually for the needs of the railway staff stationed at isolated parts of the line, as well as for the big railway settlement at Mpingwe.

Organization. All co-operative organizations in the Protectorate are controlled and supervised by the Department of Co-operative Development. In addition to the Commissioner, stationed in Zomba, field staff consisting of three Co-operative Societies Officers and seven Co-operative Assistants, are stationed at various points in the Northern and Southern Provinces. Apart from the duties of inspecting, supervising and auditing the accounts of all societies, officers of the Department have devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to the training of the staff of the various societies in the efficient and economic management of their affairs.

Chapter 7

Social Services

EDUCATION

As non-African and higher African education are the exclusive responsibility of the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland the information contained in this section refers only to the education of Africans up to and including secondary school level.

The Education Department is staffed by a Director and Deputy Director, with ancillary staff at headquarters. There are eight Education Officers, mainly concerned with the inspection and the administration of education in the field. They are assisted by 11 Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors. One secondary school, one teacher training centre, one junior trade school and two primary schools are directly controlled and staffed by the Education Department. The rest of the educational system is managed by voluntary agencies. These are principally the Christian Missions, but 77 primary schools are managed by native authorities, local communities, estates, commercial enterprises and the Moslem community. Both central and local government assist many of the voluntary agency schools by means of grants-in-aid as well as inspection by government officers.

Government is advised on education policy by an Advisory Committee on African Education which, under the chairmanship of the Director of Education, comprises representatives of Government, the African population, the principal Christian Missions and other interested persons. Each administrative district has a District Education Committee on which, as Local Government develops, increasing executive duties in connection with primary education are being devolved.

The various types of school, with the average age of entry and leaving are as follows:—

<i>Type of School</i>	<i>Type of Education</i>	<i>Average age on entry</i>	<i>Average age on leaving</i>
Junior primary	1st–5th year of education	7	12
Senior primary	6th–8th „ „ „	12	15
Junior secondary	9th–10th „ „ „	15	17
Secondary	9th–12th „ „ „	15	19
Junior Trade	9th–11th „ „ „	15	18

The total actual expenditure by Government on African education in the financial year 1954/55 was some £448,000 made up as follows:—

	<i>Recurrent £</i>	<i>Capital £</i>	<i>Totals £</i>
Ordinary 	57,000 ..	25,500 ..	82,500
Grant-in-Aid 	312,000 ..	53,500 ..	365,500
TOTALS	369,000	79,000	448,000

In addition local authorities provided expenditure as follows:—

<i>Recurrent</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Total</i>
£2,503 ..	£3,960 ..	£6,463

Voluntary organisations spent approximately £145,351 on education made up as follows:—

<i>Recurrent</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Total</i>
£113,252 ..	£32,099 ..	£145,351

Of the 3,154 junior primary schools functioning during the year, two were Government schools with a total enrolment of 265; 658 were aided junior primary school streams with a total enrolment of 92,480, and 2,494 unaided junior primary schools, the majority of which provided only the first two years of the school course, with an approximate enrolment of 140,861. Government schools were staffed by 10 teachers, aided schools by 2,197 teachers and unaided schools by 3,204 teachers.

There were 140 senior primary school streams of which one was a Government school stream; 126 were aided voluntary agency school streams and 13 were unaided voluntary agency school streams. The roll at the Government school was 94 and at the aided schools 10,107. The Government school was staffed by three teachers and the aided schools by 338 teachers. Enrolment at 13 unaided schools amounted to 827: these were staffed by 25 teachers.

There were eight aided junior secondary schools and three unaided schools of this type. Enrolment at the aided schools was 323 and at the unaided schools 108. The staff of the aided schools comprised 32 teachers, while at the unassisted schools there were 10 teachers. There were three full secondary schools, of which one was a Government school with a total roll of 140, of whom 32 were undergoing clerical training. The other two were financed by Government, except for their fees revenue, and managed by Boards of Governors on which Government was represented. Their total enrolment was 177. The Government school was staffed by nine teachers and the aided schools by 11 teachers.

The Government junior trade school, with an enrolment of 42, was staffed by a Principal and four teachers and instructors.

One Government teacher training centre with four streams, nine teacher training centres with 15 streams aided by Government and one unassisted single stream centre were in operation during the year. The courses provided included the last three streams of the outmoded vernacular grade course, giving two years post Standard IV for women only. The English Grade course provided two years of professional training post Standard VI, the Higher Grade course two years of training post Standard VIII and the Higher course two years of training post Standard X. The details are as follows:—

<i>Type of Course</i>					<i>No. of Streams</i>	<i>Total enrolment 1955</i>
Higher	..	..	..	..	1	3
Higher Grade	..	..	..	..	4	82
English Grade	..	..	..	..	12	498
Vernacular Grade	..	..	..	..	3	38
TOTAL					20	621

The number of teachers who passed out of the centres in 1955 and entered the teaching profession was 208 or 8.3 per cent of the total number of teachers employed at Government and assisted primary schools.

No change was made in the conditions of service or the salary scales for teachers during the year.

Continued efforts were made to satisfy the educational needs of adults and of children who were too old for admission to primary schools. Mass literacy drives were organized from time to time by voluntary agencies. Literature in two vernacular languages and in English continued to be provided by the Joint Publications Bureau of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. This organization continued to maintain a full time manager at Blantyre; the Nyasaland headquarters book-selling centre is at Limbe with branches at Blantyre, Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzimba. Its activities were extended during the year by the provision of a travelling bookselling van, provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and jointly maintained by the Bureau and voluntary agencies. The Bureau also maintained seven other selling agencies and a number of shops, under both commercial and Mission management, arranged to sell its books. The Nyasaland Government Information Office continued to issue a weekly newspaper, "*Msimbi*", with news and articles in English and the main vernaculars. This periodical has an average circulation of 7,750 and each copy is believed to reach at least five readers.

A number of Africans who have left school continued their studies privately, often with the aid of correspondence courses. To assist such students Government undertakes the conduct of the public examination of outside bodies. A total of 703 candidates sat for such examinations during the year.

Following advice, tendered during visits to the Protectorate by the Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and two of his Assistant Advisers, proposals were approved for the expansion of African secondary and technical education. Successful applications for assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund were made during the year. In consequence preliminary work was undertaken on the expansion of Dedza Secondary School, the building of a new secondary school at Choma in the Northern Province and the establishment of an Artisan Training Centre in the Blantyre/Limbe

area. Colonial Development and Welfare provision was also made for the building of a Government primary school for the Soche High Density residential area between Blantyre and Limbe.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

The African population is largely housed in traditional wattle and daub dwellings of round or oblong design. These are often extremely primitive, but year by year a steady improvement in the standard of African housing may be noted. Wattle and daub houses now more frequently contain windows and have separate kitchens and pit latrines. The more progressive African is clearly influenced by housing of a permanent pattern provided by Government and large industrial undertakings and more and more houses are being constructed of burnt brick with wooden doors and glazed windows. The average size of houses is also increasing. European type bungalows are by no means infrequently found on the outskirts of a traditional wattle and daub village; they are often tastefully decorated and well maintained.

In the town, where industrial undertakings are situated, some employers maintain their own workers' settlements. Generally speaking, employers have improved the type of house, as well as recreational facilities and other amenities provided for their workers.

Much of the housing provided until recently consisted of wattle and daub buildings with grass roofs. It is now becoming more widely recognized, however, that not only is such housing uneconomic, but that modern and comfortable housing must be provided, which will attract a permanent labour force. Advice and encouragement have been given by the Labour Department, and some of the more progressive employers are now erecting modern permanent buildings. While there is a considerable backlog to be made up, it is encouraging to report that most of the tea estates in the Southern Province are extending and improving their African housing and that an extensive housing scheme has been undertaken by one of the largest estates in the Cholo area. The Nyasaland Railways continue to expand their housing estate at Limbe each year. The outstanding achievement, however, is a model village now almost completed belonging to the Imperial Tobacco Company, near Limbe. When completed, this planned village will represent one of the finest African housing schemes in Southern Africa.

The local authorities and Government (also representing Federal Government interests) continued to give careful consideration to the provision of staff housing in the major townships of Blantyre, Limbe and Lilongwe. Provision was made for High Density residential areas catering for African urban settlement. Considerable building activity, particularly on the part of Government, has taken place in these areas during the year and Government has introduced schemes for Africans either to borrow money with which to build their own houses, or alternatively, to purchase Government-built houses on an instalment plan.

During the year 323 African staff quarters were constructed by Government at various stations throughout the Protectorate. Some of these were made available for the housing of Federal Government staff. In addition, considerable strides were made in the provision of additional housing for European and Asian Government staff. Fourteen new houses and 32 flats, together with four chalets, were completed during the year, and contracts were let providing for a further 45 houses and 28 flats. In the townships of Blantyre and Limbe there was a considerable increase in the building of European and Asian housing for private use.

There are only four townships of any size in Nyasaland—Blantyre and Limbe (only five miles apart), Zomba and Lilongwe. Overcrowding has been manifest in the Blantyre and Limbe townships among the Asian community, who have hitherto been living mainly in the cramped quarters attached to their trading stores. During the year the lay-out of a new medium density residential area mid-way between Blantyre and Limbe was completed and the plots to be made available in this area should appreciably assist in the relief of this overcrowding. As far as the African population was concerned, the majority still lived in traditional wattle and daub houses. As has been explained, steps are, however, being taken to provide a higher standard of housing for Africans in the urban areas, and, as work progresses, it will be possible gradually to eliminate traditional African houses from the townships.

The Town Planning Service for Nyasaland is now provided by the Chief Town Planning Officer, Southern Rhodesia, and responsibility for the organization and administration of the Town Planning Office, Blantyre, rests with the Chief Town Planning Officer, Southern Rhodesia, represented in Blantyre by a resident Town Planning Officer.

In general, the Town Planning Office gives advice on all planning problems within Nyasaland, but most of its work is naturally concentrated in the more populated areas of the country and in particular the Blantyre/Limbe and the Lilongwe areas. The Town Planning Office is located in Blantyre and is staffed by a Town Planning Officer, a Technical Assistant, a Draughtsman and a Clerk/Stenographer. Planning powers are exercised in both these areas by Town and Country Planning Committees and the Town Planning Officer acts as adviser to both Committees.

These Committees are concerned chiefly with implementing the proposals of the approved outline planning scheme for their areas. A major part of the work of the Town Planning staff is, therefore, concerned in the investigation and recommendation of planning applications, their presentation for consideration by these Committees, and, in the case of the Blantyre/Limbe Committee, the implementation of the Committee's decisions.

In 1949 the Blantyre/Limbe area was declared to be a Planning Area and in 1950 a Planning Committee, including in its membership representatives of the European, Asian and African communities, was

appointed. The outline planning scheme prepared by the Committee was approved by the Governor in Council in 1951, and has been further implemented during 1955 by the preparation of detailed layouts and the demarcation of sites, including new school sites, medium density residential areas and civic centres.

There has been a marked increase in the amount of detailed layout work required during the year, particularly in the Soche High Density Area, where a large Government building programme has started and is expected to continue for some years.

Detailed housing layouts were prepared for development in this area involving, amongst other things, some 900 house sites, shops, schools, health centres, churches and sports grounds: building is expected to start on these sites in the near future. In addition a draft layout has been prepared for the Central Area of the Soche Township.

Soche Township is administered by the Soche Authority, a statutory body specially set up for that purpose. Land is available for considerable development in the Authority's area and already Government has let a contract for the erection of 806 houses of different types. Most of these houses will be required for Government employees, but a fair proportion are being made available to employers of labour, either for renting on a monthly basis or by the purchase (over a period of time, if required) of a 99 year leasehold interest. Similar facilities are available to individual Africans. The most popular type is the detached three-roomed house and Government has therefore decided that all houses remaining to be built under the contract are to be of that type. Approval has been given for the erection of a community welfare centre costing £40,000.

Further detailed planning during the year took the form of industrial and residential layouts in areas zoned for the purpose under the outline scheme.

Two major and five minor modifications to the outline planning scheme were approved by the Governor in Council during the year. The major modifications involved the re-zoning of some 60 acres of land for heavy industrial purposes and the re-zoning of the Forest Reserve at Limbe for residential purposes.

Applications for private development in the Blantyre/Limbe area again showed a marked increase over the previous year; amounting to 482 as against 366 in 1954. In general the standard of building has distinctly improved.

The outline planning scheme for Lilongwe was approved by the Governor in Council in August 1955, and is being implemented by the preparation of detailed layouts and the demarcation of sites.

The High Density area of Lilongwe at " Falls Estate " is being developed and the building rate will increase during the coming year as a result of a Government housing programme for 215 African

houses for this area. Further detailed layouts for medium density housing and for the industrial and warehouse areas have been prepared and development started.

During the year some 97 applications for planning permission were considered as against 61 in 1954 and it is encouraging to observe that the standard of building has improved.

In October a Planning Area for Zomba was gazetted, a Planning Committee appointed and work on an outline planning scheme commenced. Building has already started in the medium density residential layout and a detailed layout prepared for the first stage of a High Density residential area.

The outline planning scheme for Mzuzu, where the Provincial Headquarters, Northern Province, was transferred during the year, has now been accepted by all interested parties. Development has been taking place in accordance with the scheme and African housing erected in the High Density layout. A layout for the first stage of the new shopping area has also been prepared.

Detailed layouts were prepared for both medium and high density development at Chileka, where building has already commenced.

SOCIAL WELFARE

THERE is no Department of Social Welfare in Nyasaland and the widespread and differing forms of social welfare work, which are at present undertaken, are included in the activities of various Government Departments, missions and voluntary organizations. Problems of social welfare are necessarily more complex in the Southern Province with its rapidly increasing African urban population, concentrated to a large extent in the Blantyre/Limbe area. To meet the needs of this urban population a Social Welfare Advisory Committee for the Southern Province was constituted in 1950, consisting of officials and non-officials. The Committee is charged with co-ordinating the activities of Government and voluntary agents in the field of social welfare; in addition it acts as an advisory body to Government concerning policy for the area and makes recommendations on any immediate action necessary. District Welfare Committees also functioned in various Districts in the Southern Province.

A woman Social Welfare Officer, attached to the office of the Provincial Commissioner, Southern Province, is responsible for the supervision and initiation of social welfare work of various kinds, though her primary interest is among African women and the supervision of African community workers.

A community hall was built in the Chiradzulu District on a plot of land donated by the Imperial Tobacco Company for a Coronation sports-field. This building was erected with assistance from Government and by the combined efforts of local inhabitants, Headmen and Chiefs.

Scouting and Guiding maintained their popularity throughout the Protectorate and made steady progress during the year. These movements are of great value for young people and especially for those attending institutions and schools. The Boy Scout organization was helped by the formation of local associations in the Protectorate. The number of Groups increased to 65 with a membership of 2,074, which compared favourably with the corresponding figures for 1954, which were 58 and 1,700 respectively. Emphasis was placed on training potential leaders: two courses were held for scout masters and one for cub masters, which were attended by 56 scouters, 53 of whom were awarded certificates. Steady progress was also made by the Girl Guides Association and 1955 saw the creation of the first Ranger and Cadet Troops in the Protectorate, in the Southern Province. Eight African guides and two European guiders attended a camp for African guides at Livingstone in Northern Rhodesia and three Nyasaland guides attended the Inter-racial Camp at Matopos in Southern Rhodesia. The Girl Guides Association had a membership of 1,619.

The Boys' Brigade (attached to the churches of the Scottish Mission throughout the Protectorate) continued its good work in the training of boys in Christian character and self-reliance.

A number of voluntary societies, such as the Nyasaland Council of Women and the Childrens' Society undertook social welfare activities in many spheres. In 1951 a local committee of the British Empire Society for the Blind was set up and the work already done for the blind by the South African General Mission continues to receive recognition and financial assistance from Government. During the year Mr. J. F. Wilson, Director of the British Empire Society for the Blind, visited the Protectorate and gave some valuable advice on training and rehabilitation of the blind.

The British Empire Service League continued to watch the interests of ex-servicemen of all races and was able to assist in cases of need. Amongst other activities the League paid for the training of blinded ex-servicemen at the Lulwe School for the Blind, run by the South African General Mission.

The Nyasaland Branch of the Red Cross Society made steady progress in 1955 and all its activities were pursued on an increasing scale. During the year an acre of land situated between Limbe and Blantyre, adjacent to the Federal Government Group Hospital, was purchased for the purpose of building a Branch Headquarters. Membership has risen with the formation of two new divisions in the Northern Province and with the reorganization of the Blantyre Division. In addition eleven Junior Links of the Branch are now in existence, representing an increase of four over the 1954 number. Interest in the Junior Red Cross was keen and a successful rally was organized in August for the three links in the Limbe and Blantyre area. Considerable assistance was derived from the visit of Miss Allison Greenlees, a Red Cross Field Officer, who spent two months in the

Protectorate visiting and helping divisions to start new activities. Ninety-seven medical institutions received comforts and gifts from members, including such gifts as dried milk, blankets, beds, trolleys, invalid chairs, cotton wool, rubber sheeting and Bau boards. Baby clinics were held regularly at Limbe and Cholo, and another clinic was started in Blantyre. Diversional therapy by members of the Branch continued in the hospitals at Zomba, Lilongwe, Blantyre and Chiradzulu and was commenced at Mzimba and Loudon. A blood donor service organized by the Branch in conjunction with the medical authorities functioned satisfactorily in the Southern and Central Provinces. This organization is capable of rapid expansion.

Juvenile delinquency is not at present a great problem in Nyasaland. Probationary work is governed by the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, under which a Principal Probation Officer and additional voluntary probation officers are appointed. The post of Principal Probation Officer is at present held by the Welfare Officer attached to the office of the Provincial Commissioner, Southern Province. The number of young offenders before the courts in 1955 was 86.

Chapter 8

Legislation

FORTY-FOUR Ordinances were enacted during 1955. The most important was the Legislative Council Ordinance (No. 25 of 1955) which, for the first time, provides for the election of unofficial members of the Legislative Council, under a revised constitution.

Other important Ordinances included the Agricultural Production and Marketing Ordinance (No. 11 of 1955) which amalgamates into the hands of one new Board the functions previously exercised by the Produce Marketing Board, Cotton Marketing Board and African Tobacco Board under their respective Ordinances; the Farmers' Stop-Order Ordinance (No. 37 of 1955) which provides for the registration of stop-orders upon growing or future crops as security for agricultural loans; and the Temporary Control of Premises Ordinance (No. 43 of 1955) which replaces the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Ordinance (Cap. 101) and which is designed to achieve progressive decontrol of rented premises over a period of approximately five years. In addition the Native Authority Ordinance was repealed and replaced in consolidated form by Ordinance No. 13 of 1955. The Law Reform (Imperial Acts Application) Ordinance (No. 9 of 1955) applied a number of United Kingdom statutes reformatory of the common law, and further steps in this direction were taken by Ordinances No. 35 and 42 of 1955.

A considerable number of amending Ordinances were passed during the year and, in particular, the Penal Code, the Stamp Ordinance, the Territorial Surcharge Ordinance, 1954, and the African Employment Ordinance, 1954, were amended in various respects.

Two hundred and one Government Notices were published during the year containing notification of appointments and subsidiary legislation in various forms. Rules were made (G.N. 87 of 1955) under the Land Survey Ordinance, 1952, relating to the licensing and conditions of practice of surveyors. Rules under the African Employment Ordinance, 1954, were also made (G.N. 184 of 1955) introducing a revised and improved form of employment book for skilled or qualified employees.

Chapter 9

Justice and Police

JUSTICE

THE Courts of the Protectorate consist of the High Court, with jurisdiction over all persons and over all matters in the Protectorate, and Courts subordinate thereto. The constitution, duties and functions of Native Courts are explained later in this section.

Subordinate courts are nominally of the first, second, third and fourth class with jurisdiction over all persons. Courts of the first class are held by Provincial Commissioners, and at Blantyre, Limbe, Lilongwe and Cholo by Resident Magistrates who are qualified lawyers. The second, third and fourth class courts are presided over by the District Commissioners, Assistant District Commissioners and cadets respectively of each district.

The Criminal Procedure Code confers on subordinate courts a limited jurisdiction. Courts of the first and second class may try offenders for any offence under the Penal Code or any other law, other than treason, instigating invasion, misprision of treason, murder and manslaughter or attempts to commit or aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of such offences; but any sentence of more than twelve months imprisonment by a first class court and six months imprisonment by a second class court is subject to confirmation by the High Court. The sentences which may be imposed by a court of the third class are limited to six months and that of the fourth class to one month. The graver crimes are tried by the High Court after a preliminary inquiry before a subordinate court.

In civil matters, courts of the first class and second class have jurisdiction in all matters in which the amount or value in dispute does not exceed £200 and £100 respectively. Courts of the third and fourth class have similar jurisdiction to a maximum of £25.

In all cases, civil and criminal, to which Africans are parties, every court is guided by native law so far as it is applicable and is not repugnant to justice and morality or inconsistent with any Order in Council or Ordinance, or any Regulation or Rule made under any Order in Council or Ordinance and decides all such cases according to substantial justice without undue regard to technicalities of procedure and without undue delay.

The High Court may call for the records of all courts subordinate to itself, to satisfy itself as to the legality and propriety of the proceedings and sentence.

Appeals from subordinate courts in civil and criminal matters lie to the High Court. Appeals from the High Court in civil and criminal matters lie to the Federal Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the Protectorate arranges regular circuits three or four times a year, and so far as is possible fixes the venue in or near the district in which the alleged crime has been committed. He also inspects the court books and files of subordinate courts. He is *ex officio* Visiting Justice of the central and district prisons of the Protectorate.

The number of civil proceedings heard in the High Court during 1955 was 220 compared with 152 in 1954. The majority of these represented civil actions and applications for probate or letters of administration. Five were petitions for divorce or separation and 17 were petitions in bankruptcy.

Fifty criminal cases were heard during 1955 by the High Court, compared with 44 in 1954. Of these, 25 concerned murder, two attempted murder, 22 manslaughter and one infanticide. Of the 57 persons involved, 18 were acquitted, 31 were convicted either of the offences with which they were charged or of lesser offences, one person was found unfit to plead and a *Nolle Prosequi* was filed in respect of the remaining seven.

Seventy-four appeals were heard of which 11 were allowed, 54 were dismissed, two were referred back to the magistrates concerned for retrial, two were quashed and substituted, one conviction and sentence was set aside and the sentence reduced, two were withdrawn and two were pending at the end of the year.

In the Subordinate Courts a total of 1,999 Civil Cases was heard during the year, compared with 1,311 in 1954. The great majority were heard in the urban areas of Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe. In addition 15,499 persons were tried by the subordinate courts for criminal offences in 1955, compared with 12,944 in 1954. The offences are tabled below, together with comparative figures for the three previous years:—

PERSONS TRIED IN SUBORDINATE COURTS

	1952	1953	1954	1955
Attempted murder and suicide ..	3 ..	1 ..	-- ..	—
Unlawful wounding	74 ..	72 ..	73 ..	141
Rape	4 ..	4 ..	19 ..	15
Other sexual offences	19 ..	24 ..	30 ..	35
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	167 ..	163 ..	175 ..	319
Common assault	99 ..	79 ..	135 ..	175
Simple larceny	547 ..	481 ..	614 ..	869
Burglary, housebreaking, etc. ..	349 ..	367 ..	435 ..	557

PERSONS TRIED IN SUBORDINATE COURTS—(Continued)

	1952	1953	1954	1955
Larceny by servants	466 ..	344 ..	495 ..	554
Receiving stolen goods	110 ..	94 ..	165 ..	132
False pretences	53 ..	64 ..	88 ..	123
Arson	74 ..	63 ..	77 ..	72
Forgery	122 ..	94 ..	184 ..	199
Other offences under the Penal Code	530 ..	817 ..	660 ..	917
Leaving the Protectorate without a Pass	72 ..	39 ..	41 ..	83
Offences against the Native Employ- ment Ordinance	20 ..	30 ..	35 ..	57
Native Tax Laws	6,763 ..	4,930 ..	5,016 ..	4,884
Game Laws	57 ..	67 ..	82 ..	93
Forest Laws	155 ..	440 ..	288 ..	95
Firearms Laws	180 ..	135 ..	171 ..	218
Public Health Laws	6 ..	9 ..	24 ..	17
Intoxicating Liquor	330 ..	352 ..	483 ..	747
Township Laws	519 ..	269 ..	467 ..	795
Epidemic and contagious diseases ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	14
Motor Traffic	699 ..	410 ..	1,045 ..	1,702
Diseases of Cattle	22 ..	737 ..	7 ..	16
Plant Diseases	26 ..	180 ..	378 ..	113
Witchcraft	19 ..	52 ..	31 ..	25
Public Roads	809 ..	953 ..	528 ..	1,449
Sanitary Boards	29 ..	2 ..	11 ..	4
Other Protectorate Legislation ..	1,045 ..	1,127 ..	1,174 ..	989
Offences against Native Law and Custom	1 ..	2 ..	13 ..	90
TOTAL	13,369	12,401	12,944	15,499

Of the 15,499 persons tried, 1,592 were acquitted or otherwise discharged, the remainder were convicted. Of those convicted 5,933 were sentenced to a fine or to imprisonment in default and paid the fine, 3,325 were similarly sentenced but were unable to pay the fine, 3,012 were sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine, one to whipping, 238 were discharged owing to their tender years or to the trivial nature of the offence and 263 were bound over.

Eighty-six juveniles came before the courts during 1955, compared with 66 in 1954. Generally speaking they were charged with petty theft. Thirty-two juveniles were committed to the approved school in 1955 as against 12 in 1954.

The Native Courts Ordinance, 1933, provides for the setting up of Native Courts under the jurisdiction of the Native Authorities. The courts are constituted in accordance with the native law or custom of the area in which they have jurisdiction, though the Provincial Commissioner may, with the approval of the Governor, prescribe the constitution of any Native Court or the order of precedence among the members thereof or the powers and duties of any persons acting as assessors to any court in his Province. In accordance with custom no Chief sits alone to hear cases; he is aided by assessors who either sit by hereditary right or are selected on account of special wisdom or

aptitude. The composition of the courts is not laid down in the Ordinance nor in the court warrants. The court assessors receive a fixed salary from the Native Treasury.

The whole country is within the jurisdiction of Native Courts and the practice and procedure of these Courts is regulated in accordance with native law and custom subject to any rules which may be made by the Governor. Warrants defining the jurisdiction and powers of the courts are issued by Provincial Commissioners.

In general the jurisdiction of Native Courts is limited to “cases and matters in which all the parties are Africans and the defendant was, at the time when the cause of the action arose, resident or being within the jurisdiction of the court.” The purpose of the courts is to administer a justice which is understood and appreciated by Africans and is as far as possible in accordance with accepted native customs.

Native Courts may exercise criminal jurisdiction to the extent set out in their warrants and subject to the provisions of the Ordinance. Such jurisdiction extends to the hearing, trial and determination of all criminal charges and matters in which the complainant and the accused are Africans and the defendant is accused of having wholly or in part, within the jurisdiction of the court, committed, or been accessory to the committing of an offence. Native Courts have no jurisdiction to try offences in consequence of which death is alleged to have occurred or which are punishable under any law with death or imprisonment for life, nor may they try cases in connection with marriage, other than marriage contracted under or in accordance with Mohammedan or native law or custom, except where both parties are of the same religion and the claim is one for dowry only.

Native Courts have and may exercise civil jurisdiction to the extent set out in their warrants and subject to the provisions of the Native Courts Ordinance. Civil proceedings, relating to immovable property, must be taken in the Native Court within the area of whose jurisdiction the property is situated.

The powers of each court are set out in the warrant establishing it. Courts are divided into three classes as follows:—

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| <i>Class A</i> | Fine not exceeding £25.
Imprisonment not exceeding six months. |
| <i>Class B</i> | Fine not exceeding £10.
Imprisonment not exceeding three months. |
| <i>Class C</i> | Fine not exceeding £5.
Imprisonment not exceeding one month. |

In cases of a criminal nature a Native Court may impose a fine, or may order imprisonment, or both fine and imprisonment. Orders for compensation may also be made.

Provincial and District Commissioners have in the first instance complete powers of review and revision over Native Courts' cases and appeals against orders or decisions of the Native Court go either to the Native Appeal Court, where there is one, or direct to the District Commissioners and thereafter to the Provincial Commissioners. Appeals from Native Courts lie ultimately to the High Court.

The African urban courts, started in Blantyre and Zomba in 1951, continued to function throughout the year. Each court has a panel of members of whom three are chosen for each sitting. These urban courts deal with petty cases in the townships and also with matters involving African customary law. In the case of the Blantyre Court arrangements are made for it to sit at Limbe as required.

A revised memorandum on Native Courts was published in 1952 and a Chinyanja version of the memorandum, which is designed to assist Administrative Officers and others whose work is connected with Native Courts, was completed and published in 1954.

The total number of cases heard by Native Courts in 1955 was 78,895. Of these 56,808 were cases of a criminal nature and 22,087 were cases of a civil nature, although as stated above, the distinction between the two is not sharply drawn. A further analysis of the total shows that of the 73,746 persons convicted, 779 were unpunished, 942 were sentenced to imprisonment, 46,589 to a fine and 25,436 to other punishments. As in previous years a large number of the cases heard related to marriage and the payment of compensation in cases of adultery.

POLICE

As no regional or Native Authority Police Forces exist in Nyasaland, the Nyasaland Police Force, constituted by the Police Ordinance (Cap. 92), is responsible for the maintenance of law and order throughout the Protectorate. The establishment of the Force was increased during 1955 to 1,414 and at the end of the year its strength of 1,402 was made up of the following ranks:—

	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Gazetted Officers	38	37
Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors	48	39
Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors	45	38
Other Ranks	1,283	1,288
TOTAL ..	<u>1,414</u>	<u>1,402</u>

In addition 116 civilians were employed by the Force at the end of the year.

The Force is organised in three Divisions, corresponding to the three Provinces; the Southern Division, commanded by an Assistant Commissioner and the Central and Northern Divisions commanded by Superintendents. Police Headquarters at Zomba includes the Criminal

Investigation Division, the Special Branch, the Police Mobile Force, the Police Training School, the Stores and Accounts Branch and the Communications Branch.

In addition to the 179 recruits in training at the beginning of the year, who were enlisted in 1954, 162 constables were recruited and underwent training at the Police Training School in 1955. Of this total of 341, 219 were posted for duty during the year. The training course was of six months' duration and covered all aspects of police work. Twelve recruits were discharged during training, chiefly on the grounds of unsuitability.

In addition to recruits' training courses two promotion courses were held, which were attended by 48 men. Four 10-week courses were held during which 136 personnel received riot drill training. Five men qualified as signallers. Twenty-five men attended two specialist courses of instruction in C.I.D. work held for detectives, each lasting three weeks. In addition four courses in anti-riot training, lasting one week, were held for 20 Gazetted Officers and Assistant Inspectors.

C.I.D. headquarters is composed of a criminal record office (with fingerprint bureau), a photographic section, the central firearms registry and the Federal aliens registry. 49,985 sets of fingerprints were filed in the fingerprint bureau and the newly established Battley collection of single fingerprints was responsible for nine successful identifications in cases where fingerprints had been found at scenes of crimes. During the year 6,530 sets of prints were received in the bureau for search: 1,440 were identified as belonging to persons with criminal records and of these 495 had three or more previous convictions. Particulars of 7,084 firearms were recorded in the firearms registry. 865 aliens were registered in Nyasaland.

The arrival of more photographic equipment enabled the photographic section of the C.I.D. to function more efficiently.

A total of 24,583 offences was dealt with by the Police, representing an increase of 5,858 over the figure for the preceding year. Figures for burglaries and housebreaking showed a considerable increase and the number of cases of all types dealt with by the Police has doubled in five years. Comparative figures for offences reported in recent years are shown in the following table:—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Murder	45	62	68	63	69
Burglary, housebreaking, store-breaking, etc. .. .	1,284	1,725	1,863	2,075	2,134
Theft	3,195	3,449	3,483	3,618	3,856
Arson	227	289	348	369	263
Other offences against the Penal Code	2,266	2,913	3,395	3,678	4,467
Statutory offences .. .	5,618	6,422	7,740	8,922	13,794
TOTAL ..	<u>12,635</u>	<u>14,860</u>	<u>16,897</u>	<u>18,725</u>	<u>24,583</u>

Fifteen motor cycle patrols were on traffic control duties throughout the Protectorate, chiefly in the Southern Division. Forty police vehicles were in operation, 13 of them equipped with Very High Frequency radio telephonic facilities. Six V.H.F. car control stations functioned in the Southern Division. These cars and stations all operated on the same frequency and there was a marked increase in inter-station V.H.F. traffic. High Frequency stations have been established in Zomba, Lilongwe, Mzimba and Mzuzu, the latter station was opened during the year. Mobile H.F. communications were also available. 9,752 written messages were handled by the stations and mobile operational units during the year.

With the repeal of the Nyasaland Immigration (Control) Ordinance and its replacement by Federal Legislation in November, 1954, immigration control is now effected for the Federal Government on an agency basis, but for the convenience of members of the public the Immigration headquarters office remained in Blantyre.

Passport control remained a territorial commitment and, during the year 864 passports were issued and 406 renewed, in addition to the grant of 96 letters of identity in cases where passports were mislaid.

Both the military and dance sections of the Police Band maintained a high standard of performance and were extremely popular with all sections of the public.

Chapter 10

Public Utilities and Public Works

PUBLIC UTILITIES

THE only public utility services operated in Nyasaland are the electricity supplies of the main townships, Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe, and the water supplies of Blantyre, Zomba, Lilongwe and a few District headquarters.

During the year the Department of Electrical Services expanded its activities in all areas of supply. In Blantyre a new plant was commissioned at the Power Station, including two boilers rated at 28,000 lb. per hour each and one 2,500 kilowatt turbo alternator. The station plant capacity was thereby increased to 4,500 kilowatts. The steam conditions at Blantyre Power Station were 400 lb. per square inch at 750°F., while the alternators generated direct at 11,000 volts. The units sold in the Blantyre/Limbe area increased from 2,800,000 to 4,320,000. During the same period some 20,000 yards of high tension transmission were constructed together with 12,000 yards of low tension reticulation.

In Zomba the plant was increased by the commissioning of a 300 kilowatt pelton wheel alternator, bringing the total plant capacity of this Station to 900 kilowatts. The high tension system was increased by 7,000 yards route length, and the low tension system by 5,000 yards. The units sold at Zomba were 1,070,000, an increase of 230,000 over the 1954 total.

At the Lilongwe Undertaking 1,700 yards of high tension line and 2,100 yards of low tension line were constructed. The undertaking continued to develop, which is demonstrated by the increase of 100,000 units sold over the previous year, making a total for 1955 of 464,000 units sold.

In December, 1955, a district plant for Fort Johnston was commissioned giving an electricity supply during the evening and daylight hours. This entailed the erection and commissioning of 8,300 yards of low tension distribution and two 12.5 kilowatt diesel driven generating sets.

Charges for electricity in Zomba varied between 2d per unit for residences and 9d per unit for shops, subject, in most cases, to a minimum varying between 5s and 15s per month. In addition a fixed rate was charged for residences of 8d. per 100 square feet of floor area, for hotels and the like, of 5s per month for each living-room, and for industrial concerns and cinemas of 3s per horsepower per month. In Blantyre and Limbe charges varied between 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per unit for residences and 1s-3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per unit for shops with, in addition, fixed rates for residences of 3s-6d per month for each living-room, for hotels, etc., of 5s per

month for each living-room and for industrial concerns and cinemas of 3s per horsepower per month. In Lilongwe charges varied between 4d per unit for residences and 1s-6d per unit for shops, subject to a minimum varying between 5s and 18s per month. In addition a fixed rate was charged for residences of 1s per 100 square feet of floor area, for hotels etc., of 5s per month for each living-room and for industrial concerns and cinemas of 3s per horsepower per month.

During the financial year 1954/55 £107,313 was spent on the development of water supplies in the Protectorate.

With the increased development of the Blantyre/Limbe area it was necessary to approve the extension of the pumping and purification plant to allow for increased consumption to a level of 1,000,000 gallons per day as compared with the previous rate of 630,000 gallons per day. Discussions were held to determine the policy and programme to be adopted for further development. Consultants were also engaged for the design of the new reticulation to serve the Soche Town African High Density area, situated between Blantyre and Limbe.

At Lilongwe the scheme continued to operate with temporary pumps (installed in 1954 to avoid delay in implementing the new £75,000 water supply scheme), which will be replaced with permanent equipment at the beginning of next year.

In Zomba the piped water supply was taken from the Mlungusi River, half-way up Zomba Mountain, and was distributed by gravity feed to all parts of the town. Owing to the inadequacy of the present system, improvements to reticulation in Zomba were commenced in 1954. The installation of the new reticulation in Zomba proceeded satisfactorily and although the new main trunk was not connected by the end of the year considerable improvements were effected in certain areas. The survey work for the new purification plant was continued.

Designs for new district schemes at Nkata Bay, Kota Kota, Port Herald, Chikwawa and extensions at Chileka were finalized, together with preliminary investigations at Mzuzu, Mzimba, Dowa and Mlanje. Construction work was started at Nkata Bay and Kota Kota while contracts were let or advertised for Chikwawa, Port Herald and Chileka. In addition, advice was given for the design of small outstation schemes throughout the Protectorate.

An important ancillary service provided by the Water Branch of the Public Works Department is that of sewerage. During the year designs for the sewer reticulation to serve the Soche Town African High Density Area were submitted by the Consultants, but the advertisement for tenders had to be deferred until difficulties were overcome regarding the siting of the sewage disposal works. Schemes for the African and Asian Areas in Zomba and a portion of the High Density area in Lilongwe were under consideration.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is organized into seven specialist branches each subordinate to its branch head. The branches are: roads and airfields, buildings, water and sewerage, mechanical engineering, stores and transport, accounts and secretarial. Proposals to augment the staff of the branches were approved in July, 1954, and it proved possible to recruit heads of the roads and airfields, buildings, stores and transport and accounts branches by the middle of 1955. The other heads of branches were appointed previously. Recruitment to other posts was poor, particularly in the design section of the roads branch, and reliance is still placed on consultants for the survey and design of new projects.

It was again necessary to concentrate a considerable portion of the works capacity on the construction of African and European houses. 323 African quarters were constructed departmentally at various stations. In the new Soche African Township, situated between Blantyre and Limbe, 104 houses were completed by the end of 1955 and a further 692 remained to be built under the same contract. Fourteen European houses, 32 flats in blocks of four and four chalets, each comprising two bed sitting rooms with bathroom and lavatory, were built by direct labour and contracts were placed for a total of 45 houses and 28 flats, of which 16 housing units were completed by the end of the year.

A contract was placed and work started on the new Legislative Council Chamber, Zomba, and tenders invited for the construction of the Artisan Training Centre, Blantyre, and the new District Offices at Lilongwe.

Of the contracts supervised on behalf of the Federal Government on an agency arrangement, the Chileka Terminal Building was completed and work proceeded on the European Primary School, Blantyre and on the Blantyre Group Hospital (now known as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital). Contracts were also placed and tenders invited for Asian Schools at Blantyre, Limbe and Lilongwe. In addition approval was given to proceed with the construction of the Liwonde Bund as part of the Shire Valley Project. Consulting Engineers were appointed for the work under the administrative control of the Public Works Department.

Chapter 11

Communications

SHIPPING

NYASALAND is served by the port of Beira in Portuguese East Africa through which the great majority of its imports and exports must pass. Thanks to the efforts of the Beira Imports Advisory Committee and the Phasing Secretariat there was again no serious congestion in the port in 1955, and the clearance of goods proceeded smoothly throughout the year. The success of the Port Authorities may be gauged from the fact that a new record of 3,046,228 tons of cargo shipped and landed was made during the year; an excess of 139,310 tons over the previous record established in 1954. Traffic was well balanced, there being 1,455,103 tons landed and 1,591,125 tons shipped.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

Nyasaland has a wide network of roads. The spinal column of the system is the route from the Portuguese border on the Ruo River, near Mlanje, northwards through Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzimba to join the Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesian system at Tunduma. Most of the other roads of importance link this North-South route with the railway and the Lake in the East, and Northern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa in the West. A further programme of road construction, covering the period 1955 to 1958 has been drawn up, financed partly from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and partly from Protectorate Funds. The total mileage of roads in the Protectorate is 5,152.

During the year the Federal Government continued to be financially responsible for the maintenance and construction of inter-territorial roads. These consisted of the North road from Limbe to Tunduma in Tanganyika Territory and the roads from Fort Manning to Salima, from Liwonde through Fort Johnston to the Portuguese East Africa border near Namweras, from Limbe through Blantyre and Chileka to the Portuguese East Africa border beyond Mwanza and from Limbe through Cholo to the Portuguese East Africa border beyond Mlanje, a total of 1,072 miles. The Roads Branch of the Public Works Department also maintained 1,616 miles of territorial roads, while a further 39 miles are maintained by the Town Councils and about 2,423 miles by the Administration and other departments.

In the Central and Southern Provinces traffic densities are still increasing and it is difficult to maintain some of the more heavily

trafficked roads during the rains. The cost of maintaining some sections of main roads carrying heavy traffic may be as much as £80 per mile per annum; maintenance of minor district roads may be as little as £5 per mile.

The post of Assistant Director (Roads) was filled during the year and a Roads Engineer continued to be attached to the staff of the Provincial Engineer in each Province. Mechanisation of roads maintenance was continued and the 10 light maintenance units consisting of towed graders, bottom dump wagons and wheel tractors continued to function satisfactorily. Eleven heavy motor graders were ordered in replacement of the old motor graders and of these 10 are for use on road maintenance.

The extension of bituminous surfaces by contract continued on the road through Mlanje to Portuguese East Africa and on the road from Lilongwe to Salima: the total mileage of main roads with bituminous surfaces is now 145. Bridge construction, by contract, on the cotton extraction road linking the Lake-shore area, North of Salima, continued during the year. Contracts were placed and work commenced on the reconstruction to gravel standard and the bridge work on the road from Lilongwe to Fort Jameson, and also the extension of the bituminous surface from Zomba for two miles in the direction of Lilongwe. Contract documents were being prepared for the extension of the bitumen surface for a further 37 miles between Zomba and Lilongwe and for the reconstruction of 49 miles of produce extraction road in the Mlanje District.

A Departmental construction unit in the Lower River area of the Southern Province was formed and completed 29 miles of secondary gravel road. A smaller Departmental unit commenced reconstruction work on the road from Mzuzu to Nkata Bay in the Northern Province.

Elsewhere, throughout the Protectorate, minor improvements were combined with the general road maintenance programme, and low strength and pole bridges were replaced to a total length of 320 feet.

The Roads and Airfields Branch was also responsible for the maintenance and improvement of airfields on an agency basis for the Federal Government. Contract documents were under preparation for the strengthening of the runways at Blantyre Airport.

At the end of 1955 there were 3,537 private motor-cars registered in the Protectorate, compared with 3,188 in 1954; 3,114 goods vehicles compared with 2,537 in 1954 and 369 agricultural tractors compared with 306 in 1954.

A fleet of motor omnibuses, operated by the Nyasaland Transport Company, covered all parts of the Protectorate. Twelve new buses were ordered by the Company during the year, which were fitted with

improved bodies, sliding glass windows and upholstered seats throughout. 1,701,482 passengers were carried and 1,536,875 miles operated, compared with 1,200,000 passengers and 1,297,169 miles in 1954.

The many building projects made a big demand on local transport but all requirements were adequately met. Motor fuel supplies were ample and were distributed smoothly to all areas.

Compulsory medical examination of drivers of motor omnibuses, heavy goods vehicles and taxis was introduced as a condition of the holding of driving licences.

Chapter 12

Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

PRINTING and the production of reading matter were among the earliest "civilized" developments in Nyasaland. As far back as 1878 the Blantyre Mission of the Church of Scotland brought out a hand Press and produced a monthly journal *Life and Work in Central Africa* which is still published. The Universities Mission to Central Africa has produced a journal, *Nyasa News*, at its headquarters on Likoma Island in Lake Nyasa since 1893.

The first regular newspaper to be produced was the *British Central Africa Gazette*, which first appeared in Zomba on 1st January, 1894. The first issue was apparently set up over the Christmas holidays in 1893, for several copies escaped the proof reader with the date 1st December, 1893, on two pages and 1st January, 1894, on the remainder. The printers were Yaos who had been trained by the Missions and one or two are said to have come from Zanzibar.

The *British Central Africa Gazette* was the official medium for the publication of notices, regulations and announcements of the Administration, but it also carried a wealth of material in the form of reports from the districts, accounts by travellers, advice on agriculture and local news, which now present a very vivid picture of life in those days in Central Africa. Local merchants were quick to take advantage of the *Gazette* for their advertisements, one of them reading simply "For Sale. A quantity of Round and Flat Iron." The German Administration in German East Africa also published its regulations in German in the *Gazette*. The "week-end" wars against the slave raiders are described in great detail and the paper is generally a happy hunting ground for the historian. In 1907 the name of the paper was changed to the *Nyasaland Government Gazette*, when the Order in Council of that year changed the name of the territory from the British Central Africa Protectorate to the Nyasaland Protectorate.

The *Government Gazette* of today is published fortnightly by the Government Printer at Zomba and contains only official announcements and notices, Ordinances and such matters as have to be published by law for official information.

The first independent newspaper was *The Central African Planter*, published monthly from September, 1895, at Songani near Zomba. Its first editorial apologized for the appearance of a fourth paper in

the Protectorate and hoped that people would not think the field over-crowded. The other papers were *Life and Work*, *Nyasa News* and the *British Central Africa Gazette*. As the telegraph line from Salisbury to Blantyre was completed about this time, the *Central African Planter* was able to publish world news and so satisfy a definite need.

In 1897 this paper became a weekly and changed its name to the *Central African Times* and later, when the name of the Protectorate was changed, it became the *Nyasaland Times* of today. It is now published on Tuesdays and Fridays. Newcomers to the Territory are often puzzled by references to something having been "in last week's CAT" until they learn that the *Times* still carries as its nickname the initials of its predecessor. The *Nyasaland Times* is published by the Blantyre Printing and Publishing Company Ltd., of Blantyre. It reaches the European, Asian and educated members of the African community.

The *Rhodesia Herald*, published in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, circulates widely in Nyasaland, despite the fact that its news is often a day or two old by the time it is read.

The African community is provided for by an official weekly newspaper, an independent weekly paper and a number of Mission journals with Chinyanja as the main vernacular. The Government sponsored African Book Centre, with headquarters at Blantyre, supplies books at low rates to Africans.

The official vernacular newspaper *Msimbi* (the relater or recorder of news) has been published weekly by the Public Relations Department in Zomba, since October, 1949. It contains local and world news, illustrations and advertisements. It has a large circulation within Nyasaland and it also reaches Nyasaland Africans in South and East Africa and in the Rhodesias. Its predecessors were *Zoona* (The Truth), published by the *Nyasaland Times* before the war and *Nkhani za Nyasaland*, a free official weekly news-sheet which replaced *Zoona* at the beginning of the war to make reliable information freely available to the people.

African interest in *Msimbi* has in the main grown steadily since its inception. In 1953, however, as a result of the appearance of *Bwalo la Nyasaland*, an independent weekly newspaper published in Salisbury for circulation in Nyasaland, sales of *Msimbi* fell temporarily from 8,200 to 7,200 copies per week. The two intervening years, however, have seen the paper gradually recapture its popularity, and by the end of 1955 the circulation had attained a figure of 8,350. This encouraging trend is due in part to the new format adopted for the paper in 1955, which increased the size of the issue and enhanced its public appeal with an improved method of presentation and printing. In view of the fact that the paper is passed from hand to hand and the news contained in it passed verbally to illiterates, it is estimated that in all the paper reaches a total of some 40,000 Africans.

An interesting innovation during the year has been the establishment of an Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary for African Affairs, and composed of four unofficial members of Legislative Council, whose object is to assist and advise the Editor of *Msimbi* in the production and publication of the paper. The annual subscription for the paper remains at 4s.

Other vernacular newspapers in circulation are the *African Weekly* and the *Bantu Mirror*, both published in Southern Rhodesia; the *Nkhani za Dowa*, a district newspaper of the Central Province; the *African*, a bi-monthly paper published by the White Fathers' Mission at Likuni, near Lilongwe, similar in make-up to *Msimbi* but with more accent on mission news; *Mthenga* (The Messenger), published every two months by the Dutch Reformed Church Mission; *Lipenga* (The Trumpeter), published every two months by the Zambesi Industrial Mission; and *Uthenga* (The Message), published every two months by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission. In addition, one or two estates produce news sheets on duplicators.

The Nyasaland Journal, the organ of the Nyasaland Society, is published twice a year and contains papers on matters of social, cultural, historical and scientific interest in the Protectorate.

The Nyasaland Farmer and Forester, a quarterly journal which made its appearance during 1953, continued the publication of material dealing with agricultural, veterinary and forestry affairs.

The weekly information bulletin, published by the Information Service in Zomba, continued to improve its circulation during the year and now stands at a figure of 7,000. The bulletins contain news items and other factual reports of interest which are disseminated to addressees within the country, in neighbouring territories and in the United Kingdom. It is the object of the bulletin to interpret and explain the policy of Government to the people through the medium of accurate news items and reports, while at the same time conveying some indication of the development and progress, taking place within the Protectorate, to the neighbouring territories. Experience has shown that the bulletins, which are issued free, are fulfilling a useful purpose and are gaining a wide and interested public.

BROADCASTING

African broadcast programmes are received in Nyasaland from the Central African Broadcasting Station in Lusaka. Indian stations are received at good strength, probably because transmission from India has a comparatively short journey over land. The local Asian community are thus well served in their own languages. The B.B.C. Overseas programme is well received in the evenings and South African and Portuguese East African stations also come in strongly. Electrical disturbances are, however, fairly frequent during the rains.

Lusaka broadcasts in Chinyanja (the principal vernacular language of the Protectorate) are very popular and are listened to regularly by hundreds of African owners of cheap dry-battery receiving sets. A large number of these listeners correspond directly with the station. English programmes are also relayed and are listened to by the more educated element and often by others who have little or no command of English. Group listening wireless sets are available at various centres in Nyasaland, including African clubs and community halls, while the supply and distribution of "Saucepan" and Phillips dry-battery sets have been organized through commercial channels. It is estimated that at the end of the year there were over 8,000 of these cheap sets in the Protectorate in addition to the 4,000 sets registered with the Postmaster General.

Nyasaland has no immediate access to the air. Material and news for transmission to the African community is telegraphed or airmailed to Lusaka by the Information Service. The recording studio at Zomba is fully equipped with tape recording facilities and it was possible during the year to extend the arrangement whereby the Information Service records live material such as news, talks, feature broadcasts, music and plays for inclusion in the programmes of the Salisbury and Lusaka transmitting stations. This procedure was most successful and the improved and extended service was responsible for over 500 recordings during the year.

FILMS

The distribution of films for Africans is undertaken by two Government Information Units, one of which is stationed at headquarters in Zomba, and the other in the Northern Province. The units showed films to 124,318 persons during the year and the headquarters unit travelled 5,029 miles in 33 weeks of the year. As the shows are almost all given in the open it is impossible for the units to go on tour during the rains. The films shown are mostly silent but a trained African commentator, by dint of much practice, puts words into the mouths of the actors through a microphone and loudspeaker system. During the dry season the show would be followed by a dance, the amplifier and record player providing the music and the generator providing lights in the arena. Such a gathering also presents an opportunity to relay items of news to rural communities thus enhancing the value of the unit as a peripatetic village news-carrier.

In addition to the two Government Units a number of mobile cinema units were successfully operated on circuit by the African Tobacco and Cotton Boards, the District Commissioners, Blantyre, Domasi and Kota Kota, and the Councils of Chiefs at Dowa and Lilongwe. The films shown by these units were of suitable education and entertainment value, and enjoyed a large measure of popularity with African audiences. Plans were initiated during 1955 to supplement the units already in existence with several others, which will function in some of the remoter areas of the Protectorate. Similarly, provision was made to add substantially to the film content of the library each

year thus providing a source of films upon which the rural units may draw to meet the enthusiastic response of the African audiences. It is estimated that these units showed films to a further 150,000 people during the year.

The film library of the Information Section of the Secretariat now contains 456 films and serves 46 independently-owned projectors on estates and in factories, missions, schools and private homes. The main sources of supply are the Central Office of Information, which provides documentaries and “*British News*”, and the Central African Film Unit. Films are also purchased from the trade.

There are in the Protectorate three permanent cinemas which show films in English. These are situated at Blantyre and Limbe. In addition, four European clubs have their own projectors and hire films from commercial concerns in South Africa or Southern Rhodesia.

INFORMATION SERVICES

In 1954 a general reorganization of the information services in Nyasaland was undertaken, following the establishment of the Federal Information Department in Salisbury on the 1st July. With effect from that date European information, tourism and photography became a Federal responsibility under the direction of a Federal Information Officer stationed in Zomba. The remaining functions of the former Department of Public Relations were taken over by the Nyasaland Information Service under an Information Officer. The benefits deriving from this division of responsibility became increasingly evident during 1955 and were reflected in the increased volume of news both African and European which was made available to the newspaper and broadcast network of the Federation, and the rapidly expanding projection of Nyasaland news and development to neighbouring territories and in the United Kingdom.

The Nyasaland Information Service, which replaced the former Department of Public Relations, has an establishment of 26, consisting of the Information Officer, his assistant, a Cinema Officer, two Departmental Assistants, two Sub-Editors for *Msimbi*, three Mobile Unit Operators, six Clerks, one Announcer/Translator, three Drivers, three Messengers and three Mobile Unit Operators' Assistants.

The functions of the Information Officer are to assist in interpreting the policy of Government to the people of the Protectorate, to act in an advisory and co-ordinating capacity for distributing information on the various development schemes, to keep in touch with public opinion, to publicize the territorial affairs of the Protectorate in Great Britain and elsewhere and to provide the public of the Protectorate with information about developments in Great Britain and various aspects of British life.

In the execution of these duties the Information Officer makes use of the Press, the cinema, broadcasting, publications, photographs

and personal contacts. There is evidence that an increasing interest is being taken in the affairs of the Protectorate by the Press of other countries and news items are supplied to the South African Press Association who distribute them to Reuter and agencies elsewhere. Bulletins of the London Press Services and Press releases from the Information Department of the Colonial Office are distributed locally. Supplies of literature are distributed as judiciously as possible to the many thousands of educated Africans who are eager for information and knowledge. Large numbers of British magazines are regularly sent to district headquarters where they are handed down through Native Authorities to individual Africans. These publications are in great demand and pass through many hands until they finally disintegrate through use. At many District headquarters, where there are African Welfare Halls, the material serves an invaluable purpose and a wide public in the reading rooms attached. It is also hoped that the supply of material will induce Africans to get together in such reading rooms and form discussion groups. The demand for such publications, however, still greatly exceeds the supply; posters and photographs of the Royal Family are always in the greatest demand.

In addition the Information Service issues Press bulletins designed to meet a growing local and overseas demand. Care is taken to send recipients the type of release they require and not to overload them indiscriminately with unwanted material. The Service also prepares feature articles on subjects of interest which are issued in the Protectorate and translated into Nyanja for use by district newspapers and other recipients.

An interesting ancillary function, undertaken by the Information Service, is that of recording, for record purposes only, the proceedings of Legislative Council sittings and those of other important meetings. Permanent recording equipment has been ordered for installation in the new Council Chamber in 1956. A parallel activity, falling within the function of the Service was the increasing use made of mobile and static public address equipment. Fourteen public functions were covered in this manner in 1955, and as the tempo of development throughout the Protectorate increases the service will grow in importance. The Service is also responsible for the technical side of outside broadcasts and is frequently called upon to meet this increasing demand.

Chapter 13

General

THE SCHOOL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THIS School, situated at Domasi, whose basic purpose is leader-training, has provided a variety of courses in its three years of existence. Four of these have been for Native Authority teams, each of which usually consists of Chief, Councillor, Clerk and the local Agricultural Instructor (a government servant). Their courses last four months, and cover the organization, machinery and responsibilities of local authorities at their level, court procedure, land usage and animal husbandry, local government works, preventive medicine and village improvement. The instructors are those who are responsible for work in the Domasi area, supplemented by visiting lecturers; visits are also made to places of interest and importance such as the Agricultural Training Centre, the Livestock Improvement Centre, Zomba African Hospital and the Police Training School. The courses put considerable emphasis on the need for mutual understanding and integration of all local government and development work. The course ends with two development exercises in the field during which each team puts forward its own proposals for the development of the area involved and its plan for carrying these out.

Two courses were also run for Native Administration clerks and one for the senior staff of statutory District Councils, established under the Local Government Ordinance of 1953. In addition, there have been short courses for men and women interested in voluntary social organizations and for Police literacy instructors.

All students, except those coming for very short courses, are encouraged to bring their wife and younger children with them, partly to bring home the family basis in all true social development and partly so that the women may themselves receive instruction in homecrafts, child welfare and the organization of Women's Institutes. Several of the latter have already been organized by students' wives on their return home.

TSETSE CONTROL

During the year work has been concentrated on making a detailed survey of the tsetse distribution in the Lower River area, where the persistence of trypanosomiasis would inhibit the major agricultural developments envisaged as a result of the decision to construct the Liwonde Bund as the first stage in the Shire Valley Project. Investigations showed that far more trypanosomiasis existed than could be

accounted for by tsetse flies alone and it is considered that mechanical transmission by flies, other than tsetse, may be responsible for this situation. It is likely that outbreaks of this disease were started by tsetse carried from the Zambesi valley belts, and then extended by mechanical transmission.

In addition to the intensive survey of the Lower River area the overall picture of tsetse distribution in the Southern Province was completed during the year and the preparation of plans for control by human settlement commenced.

An attempt to achieve quick elimination of fly over a portion of the Karonga *G. Brevipalpis* belt by means of insecticide fog had to be abandoned, when it became plain that the sensitivity of the fog to air currents, coupled with the broken nature of the terrain, made it impossible to ensure complete coverage of the area. Insecticidal attacks, however, on a limited pocket of fly on the plains, where movement is easier, met with considerable success, and the introduction of a variation in the bush clearing plan on the main belt, after the abandonment of the insecticide experiments, produced excellent results.

PART III

Chapter 1

Geography and Climate

THE Protectorate of Nyasaland is some 520 miles in length and varies in width from 50 to 100 miles; it lies approximately between $9^{\circ}45'$ and $17^{\circ}16'$ South latitude and 33° and 36° East longitude. It is bounded on the East by Tanganyika and Portuguese East Africa, on the South by Portuguese East Africa, on the West by Portuguese East Africa and Northern Rhodesia and on the North by Tanganyika. The area of the Protectorate is about 37,000 square miles or nearly three-quarters of the area of England; the southern tip of the country is 130 miles from the sea.

The key to the physiography of the Protectorate is that part of the Great Rift Valley which, running down from the North, traverses Nyasaland from end to end. In this deep trough lies Lake Nyasa, 360 miles long and varying in width from 10 to 50 miles; the surface of the Lake is 1,500 feet above the sea level and its greatest depth about 2,300 feet, so that the lowest part of the floor of the trough is over 700 feet below sea-level. From the South end of the Lake issues the River Shire, which falls to 120 feet above sea level at Port Herald and finally joins the Zambesi 250 miles from the Lake.

The country East and West of the Rift Valley rises in mountains generally steep and sometimes precipitous, to form high plateaux; West of the Lake these are generally between 3,300 and 4,400 feet above sea level, but in the North the Nyika uplands rise as high as 8,000 feet. South of the Lake lie the Shire Highlands with a general elevation of 2,000 to 3,500 feet rising to the mountain masses of Zomba (7,000 feet) and Mlanje (10,000 feet). In the extreme South the Rift, occupied by the lower part of the Shire, is only 200 to 300 feet above sea level.

The only other geographical features of any note are the two minor Lakes, Chiuta and Chilwa, which lie on the Portuguese border on the East, between Lake Nyasa and the Mlanje range.

The administrative capital of the Protectorate is Zomba, situated some 65 miles South of the Lake on the lower slopes of Zomba Mountain. It has an estimated population of 600 Europeans, 380 Asians and 5,000 Africans. The largest commercial centre of the Protectorate is the dual township of Blantyre/Limbe, situated on the railway about 40 miles South-west of Zomba. Although the two townships have a common boundary their affairs are administered by separate town councils. However, it was decided by a referendum to ratepayers in March, 1955, that the townships should amalgamate under a single municipality and

new elections will be held in 1956 with a view to electing a single town council on the 1st April, 1956. The combined population of the two towns is estimated at 2,350 Europeans, 3,080 Asians and an African population varying seasonably between 15,000 and 22,000. Further North the most important town is Lilongwe, the headquarters of the Central Province, which has an estimated population of 300 Europeans, 275 Asians and 5,000 Africans.

On the Lake-shore there is a distinctive climate; the temperature seldom rises above 100°F., but the proximity of the Lake and the generally heavy rainfall during the wet season create a humid atmosphere which is trying. Elsewhere the climate varies with the altitude. In the Highlands it is equable and healthy; while at altitudes above 3,000 feet extreme heat is unusual and fires are welcome in the evenings of the cold season; in the Shire Valley the temperature rises to 115°F. in October and November.

The rainfall divides the year into two seasons, the dry season from May to October and the wet season from November to April. The first rains are due at any time after mid-October and from then until the end of December there are violent thunderstorms with heavy rain. These storms are usually of quite short duration and the intervals between them are apt to become hot and oppressive. Steady rains should be established in January and continue until about the end of March, often rising to a crescendo of storms during the last week or two of the season; dry spells of a week or more frequently occur about the beginning of February. After March the rainfall diminishes rapidly and from May to September the climate is on the whole cool and dry; heavy Scotch mists, known locally as "*Chiperones*" (as they appear to come from Chipero Mountain in Portuguese territory), are common in the Highlands in June and July. The country can be divided into some seven zones of rainfall with annual falls ranging from 30 ins. to over 70 ins., and the distribution of the dry season fall determines the areas suitable for certain crops; it has been suggested, for example, that the limit of the true tea, coffee and tung areas of the country may be traced on the dry season rainfall map by the 7-in. isohyet.

The small size of Nyasaland and the great variety of physical and climatic conditions within it, greatly though they add to the attractiveness of the country, account together for many difficulties involved in its administration and development.

Chapter 2

History

NYASALAND is Livingstone's country. It is true that there are various Portuguese records from 1616 onwards of occasional journeys across the southern end of what is now the Protectorate, and that in the eighteenth century Portuguese officials and miners penetrated into the neighbourhood of the present Northern Rhodesia border, not far from the site of Fort Jameson; but none of these left any lasting trace. It is also true that from an indefinite date, perhaps the sixteenth century, until almost the end of the nineteenth, there was constant passage through Nyasaland by migrating Bantu tribes, but their traditions, as at present known, are too vague to be given the name of history.

The history of Nyasaland can therefore be said to begin with David Livingstone's discovery of Lake Nyasa on 16th September, 1859. In the early sixties the path he had opened was followed, under his guidance, by the pioneers of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, but in the short time between these expeditions, the country had been defaced by tribal wars and slave raids in a way which made a harrowing contrast to the smiling land and people seen earlier by the great explorer. The missionary pioneers retired in the face of disease and death, after suffering heavy and tragic losses, and the Universities' Mission did not return until 1881.

After Livingstone's death, and inspired by it, both the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland established Missions in 1874/5 as memorials to him, the former at Blantyre, named after his Scottish birthplace, and the latter at Livingstonia, first sited at the South end of the Lake but soon removed to the North. At this period, to quote the Bell Report, "Nyasaland was a whirlpool of migrant tribes, war and slave raiding and during the dry season caravans of slaves in chains and slavesticks started from the areas around the mission stations for the coast ports". These constituted a challenge which neither Christianity nor ordinary European humanity could ignore, and it is to the eternal credit of the Scottish Missions that next after Livingstone's name in the roll of Nyasaland's great pioneers must be inscribed the names of Robert Laws of Livingstonia and Alexander Hetherwick of Blantyre, to whose services the country largely owes the growth of a *Pax Britannica* rather than the imposition of a *Pax Romana*.

At this early period there were no means of obtaining supplies or services, except by the exchange of trade goods, chiefly calico,

and the Missions had perforce to trade. To relieve the missionaries of much of the commercial side of their activities a number of business men, mainly from Glasgow, who were interested in Livingstonia, formed in 1878 the African Lakes Company as a transport and trading concern to work in close co-operation with Mission activities. The original heads of the company (now the African Lakes Corporation) were the brothers Moir. One of their objects was to achieve Livingstone's aim of combating the slave trade, rendering it economically unsound in the face of legitimate commerce as well as by the spreading of Christianity.

These pioneers were followed by other Europeans, missionaries, traders, hunters and coffee planters, but not until 1883 did a representative of the British Government appear in the shape of a Consul, Captain Foot, accredited to "the Kings and Chiefs of Central Africa", the second consul, Captain Hawes, established himself at Zomba, now the seat of Government.

By now the first of Nyasaland's nineteenth century invaders, the Angoni—who are entitled to claim descent from Chaka's Zulu—had almost ended their wanderings, which had taken them in 50 years from Natal to Lake Tanganyika and back to the hinterland of Lake Nyasa; the Yao, starting from somewhere about the headwaters of Rovuma River, on the modern border between Tanganyika and Portuguese East Africa, were still on the move round the South end of the Lake, warring as they went. At the same time the slave traders at the North end of the country were becoming steadily more inconvenienced by the competition of religion and commerce with which they were now faced, and in 1888 trouble, followed by open warfare, arose between the Arab leaders of the trade and the African Lakes Company, who had to expend most of their resources on military operations. Fortunately, for Nyasaland, these operations came under the eye of Cecil Rhodes whose British South Africa Company came to the rescue financially.

About this time too the Portuguese Government began to cast interested eyes on the land to the North of the Zambesi, on which river it had long had military and trading posts, and there was a certain degree of international friction. In 1889, however, one cause of friction was removed by the discovery of a navigable route through the Zambesi delta from the Indian Ocean which made Nyasaland accessible, by way of the Zambesi and the Shire, by an international waterway without touching Portuguese Territory. Nevertheless, in the same year a conflict took place on the Lower Shire between a well-armed Portuguese expedition under Major Serpa Pinto and one of the Makololo Chiefs, in consequence of which the Acting Consul, a pioneer planter named Buchanan, claimed a British Protectorate over the Shire country on 21st September, 1889, almost exactly 30 years after Livingstone first set foot on the shores of Lake Nyasa.

In 1891 an Anglo-Portuguese Convention ratified the work of Mr. H. H. (later Sir Harry) Johnston, Mr. A. (later Sir Alfred) Sharpe and others and a Protectorate was proclaimed over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa; in 1898 the name of the territory was changed to British Central Africa Protectorate, but in 1907 a further Order-in-Council revived the old name of Nyasaland Protectorate. It must here be emphasized that Nyasaland did not fall under British influence by conquest or annexation; it was led under the protection of the Crown by British missionaries and traders with, as first the Proclamation put it, "the consent and desire of the Chiefs and people."

By 1896 the slave trade had been extinguished and the countries of the Yao and the Southern Angoni pacified, although the Northern Angoni did not come fully within the sphere of British Administration until 1904. They had, however, long given up raiding their neighbours, partly because of an unpleasant military surprise inflicted on them by the Achewa to the South, but undoubtedly mainly because of the immense influence acquired over their Paramount Chief by Dr. Laws to whom, with his colleagues, was due the peaceful entry into the British Commonwealth of a 100,000 people with their 5,000 square miles of territory.

Since then the life of the country has on the whole been peaceful, though, of course, affected like that of every other country by the two World Wars. Nyasaland's position in 1914 with her long common border with German East Africa was dangerous, but prompt action on both land and water defeated the immediate danger and she was able to contribute greatly to the British forces which waged the long and costly East African campaign. It was during this war that the Chilembwe rising took place, when one John Chilembwe, a native pastor half-educated in the United States and encouraged by the German authorities, rose with his followers in the Blantyre neighbourhood and murdered several Europeans against whom the rebels had personal grudges; rapid counter-measures were taken and the rising petered out with the death of its leader in a scuffle in the bush on the Portuguese border. To the credit of these misguided men it must be mentioned that such European women and children as fell into their hands were treated with the utmost consideration.

Nineteen hundred and thirty-nine found the Protectorate far from any front, but nevertheless able to aid the war effort very considerably, in relation to her size, in both men and materials. In peacetime, Nyasaland raises the two senior regular battalions of the King's African Rifles, and the First Battalion maintained its pride of place by being the first African colonial unit to be in action, in 1940, against the Italians on the Abyssinian border, and the last out of action in 1945 in the neighbourhood of Rangoon. Between these two dates it added Abyssinia, Madagascar and Burma to a list of campaigning grounds which in the previous 50 years had embraced much of tropical Africa. By the end of the war nearly 30,000 Nyasalanders, including a

very high proportion of the Protectorate's small European population—men and women—had served in the forces and to the two original battalions had been added a further seven line battalions, two field regiments of artillery, over 4,000 drivers in the East African Army Service Corps and numerous other garrison and ancillary troops. The wandering habits of the natives of the country, to which fuller reference is made below, led also to their appearance in many non-Nyasaland units of the East African Forces, in the non-European units of the Union Defence Force and in the pioneers; a few of the last-named had the misfortune to be taken prisoner at Tobruk and thereby made the acquaintance of Italy and Germany before they were liberated.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-one saw celebrations in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of the declaration of a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa. It was an occasion for reflection on the notable advances which had taken place during 60 years of comparatively peaceful and prosperous British rule. Considering the social and economic conditions which prevailed towards the end of the nineteenth century, the growth of peace and prosperity, the establishment of law and order, the evolution of a political and social consciousness together with the maintenance of inter-racial harmony amount to a considerable achievement in so short a space of time. The emphasis laid by Africans in their loyal addresses on May 15th, 1951, on the benefits resulting from 60 years of British rule was most gratifying to those who had played some part in the Nyasaland story.

The great constitutional change, embodied in the proposals for the Federation of Nyasaland with Northern and Southern Rhodesia, was first put before the people in 1951 and continued in 1952 to be the subject of discussion throughout the Protectorate. The conference at the Victoria Falls, held in September, 1951, was followed by a change of Government in the United Kingdom. In November, 1951, a statement was made in Parliament endorsing the conclusions of the conference and undertaking to further the discussions and consultations which had taken place. As a result of this undertaking informal talks were held in London in January, 1952, at which the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia and the Governors of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland were present. These were followed by a conference in London in April, 1952, at which Nyasaland was represented by His Excellency the Governor, the Secretary for African Affairs and four unofficial European members. African representatives were invited to attend but declined at the last minute to do so. The conference produced the Draft Federal Scheme, Command Paper 8573, which was published in June, 1952.

The final conference was held in London, after preparatory discussions in December, during January, 1953. Nyasaland was represented by His Excellency the Governor, the Financial Secretary,

the Secretary for African Affairs, the Deputy Chief Secretary and three prominent unofficials. This conference produced the Federal Scheme (Command Paper 8753) which was later accepted by the three Central African Governments and Her Majesty's Government. The meeting of the Nyasaland Legislative Council which made this decision was held in April, 1953, and the Order in Council establishing the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was made by Her Majesty on the 1st August, together with an Order providing that the constitution should become effective on 3rd September, 1953. An interim Federal Government was then formed to conduct the business of the Federation until proper elections could be held.

The 15th December, 1953, saw the first general election ever held in Nyasaland, when four European members were elected to the Federal Assembly. On the same day two African members were elected by the African Protectorate Council, which had been declared as the body representative of African opinion for the purposes of this election. Both elections passed off without incident. In addition, one European member of the Assembly was nominated by the Governor to represent African interests.

In August and September, 1953, disturbances occurred in the Southern Province of the Protectorate. The Federation issue had undoubtedly intensified the political atmosphere but the basic cause of the disturbances could be traced to land hunger in the Province, coupled with dislike of the tenant system—grievances which were unscrupulously exploited by political agitators. The people affected were mainly Alomwe immigrants from Portuguese Territory. Law and order was restored by the end of September.

In May, 1954, the Secretary of State for the Colonies visited Nyasaland with the object *inter alia* of observing at first hand the problems which had given rise to the disturbances, and of consulting opinion representative of the various sections of the community. Following his visit it was arranged that Government should enter into negotiation with the owners of certain large estates with a view to acquiring land occupied by African tenants and land suitable for the settlement of Africans which was not required for development by the estate-owners.

Following this arrangement agreement was reached during 1955 for Government to acquire from certain private estates some 72,000 acres of land.

In June, 1955, the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced a revised Constitution for Nyasaland, the Legislative Council (with an increased African membership) to consist of the Governor as President, three *ex officio* Members, eight Official Members and 11 Unofficial Members. In September the Legislative Council Ordinance (Ordinance No. 25 of 1955) was enacted to provide for the election

of the Unofficial Members. Provision was made for the six non-African Members to be elected on a non-African electoral roll by electoral areas and for the five African Members to be elected by the African Provincial Councils. No change was made in the membership of the Executive Council.

On the 12th August, 1955, Blantyre celebrated its diamond jubilee as a municipality. The town itself started to take shape on July 14th, 1894, when 17 farmers and traders (there were only 17 settlers at the time) met to draw up a legal agreement to constitute the Blantyre Township. One hundred acres were set aside from their land to be sub-divided into a preliminary township. Roads were made and the first "Council of Advice", as it was called, met the following year on August 12th, 1895, with a membership of six and funds amounting to less than £40 in the cash box. One of the earlier achievements was the fixing of a uniform time for the local inhabitants by arranging to have a gun fired at noon every Friday. It was also fired on the arrival of the United Kingdom mail. From these beginnings Blantyre's 100 acres have now increased to 4,000 and the town's estimated value in property is approximately £3,750,000. As an indication of the rate at which the commercial centre of the Protectorate is expanding, it is of interest to note that the population has trebled since 1945.

The social and economic history of the country, since its proclamation as a Protectorate, is, on the whole, one of slow but steady progress in the face of many difficulties. Migratory tribal units have become stabilized and the last flood of immigrants was one of Africans from Portuguese Territory, swarming over the border in search of work on the tea estates and later settling down in the Southern Province. Thanks largely to the work of the Missions, which have now among them representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa and the Seventh Day Adventists, as well as the successors of the Scottish and Anglican pioneers, education has made considerable strides, craftsmen continue to increase in numbers and medical aid has reached far beyond the more settled areas of the country. The influence of western culture has undoubtedly done much to divorce the African from the anchorage of his tribal beliefs and discipline, but on the credit side there has probably been the building up of a greater degree of sound moral character than the superficial observer often believes: as in material progress much of the credit belongs to the Missions, so in this moral sphere much is due to the influence and example of lay Europeans, both men and women. A current task is the inculcation among Africans of a spirit of voluntary service to their fellows which had not been encouraged by an earlier insistence on the virtues of rugged individualism. As social welfare activities grow so will the field of such service expand, but already the opportunity is there, in probation work, in scouting, guiding, Red Cross activities and in the management of such recreational pastimes, as football leagues.

Reference has already been made to the wandering habits of the Nyasaland African; travel is in his blood, life at home is apt to be dull and in a predominantly agricultural country cash returns have until recently been low by comparison with those of other countries. It was not long, therefore, after the pacification of the country, before the African began to find his way to the higher cash wages of Rhodesia and the bright lights of the Rand. The Nyasa is now to be found in South Africa, the Rhodesias, Tanganyika, Kenya, the Belgian Congo, Portuguese East Africa and London; he has also been reported from the New York waterfront. The stream of emigrants swelled steadily until by the nineteen-thirties it is safe to say that nearly a third of the able-bodied men were away from Nyasaland. Since then measures have been taken to control the flow, to safeguard the emigrant while out of the country and to ensure that in as many cases as possible he and his savings return home after a fairly short period, either for good or for regular holidays. The country's contribution to the economic progress of its neighbours will thus be seen to have been considerable.

Otherwise, the economic history of Nyasaland is its agricultural history, which is a record of pioneer planting, mostly with little previous experimental work, by Europeans of single products over large areas of land. The earliest economic crop was coffee and a coffee tree figured prominently in the Protectorate's first coat of arms. Coffee was later displaced by cotton which in turn gave way to tobacco and tea and these two may now be regarded as the Protectorate's main cash crops. Tung has grown steadily in importance but its position as a major crop will depend on the experiments now being carried out in connection with the Vipya development scheme and on the trend of the market. The last few years have also seen the establishment of certain minor secondary industries but it is unlikely that these will ever be of more than local importance. They do, however, contribute considerably to the comfort and well-being of the population in the provision of cheap soap, cigarettes and shoe leather.

No sketch of the history of Nyasaland would be complete without a reference to the development of its communications. In the early days the Zambesi, the Shire and Lake Nyasa provided the main artery of communication, interrupted only by the 60 mile portage round the Murchison Cataracts on the Shire. By the time that the Chinde mouth of the Zambesi was discovered in 1889, the level of the Shire had begun to fall and steamers could not proceed beyond Chiromo. The growing importance of Blantyre led to the planning of a railway to it from the Lower Shire and in 1907 work was begun on a line from Chiromo to Blantyre; almost immediately, however, the continued fall in the level of the Shire made Chiromo useless as a port and the railway was continued to Port Herald, the line being opened in 1908. Port Herald then became difficult or impossible of approach for steamers and between 1913 and 1915 a further 50 miles of railway were constructed between Port Herald and Chindio on the northern bank of the Zambesi in Portuguese Territory.

Meanwhile the level of the Upper Shire was also falling and in due course steamer traffic became impossible outside Lake Nyasa. The Blantyre–Zomba Road, one of the first to be made in the country, was therefore extended to Fort Johnston at the South end of the Lake and this was the main transport route in use during the first world war. The Protectorate is linked by road with all its neighbours and the trunk roads from Blantyre to Mbeya and from Salima to Fort Jameson are important parts of the main communications of Central Africa.

Navigation on the Zambesi next became uncertain and a railway, opened in 1922, was built from Murraca, on the South bank of the Zambesi, nearly opposite Chindio, to Dondo, 18 miles from Beira on the line from Beira to Rhodesia. The ferry service was, however, unsatisfactory and the line was frequently washed out by floods. In 1935, therefore, a railway bridge across the Zambesi was opened and at the same time the line was extended from Blantyre to the neighbourhood of Lake Nyasa at Salima, giving uninterrupted rail communication between the Lake at Chipoka and Beira on the Indian Ocean. As an illustration of the trials of those who plan in Africa it may be added that about the time this link was completed the Lake began to rise again and the Shire with it, so that in the rainy season the railway bridge at Chiromo might have more than 20 feet of water under it; a realignment of the track in this neighbourhood became urgently necessary. Early in 1948, a few months after this improvement had been completed, a great island of sudd, floating down the flooded Shire, carried away the Chiromo bridge and Nyasaland's railway link with the sea became dependent on a swiftly improvized ferry which remained in operation throughout 1949. A new steel bridge, completed during 1949, was put into service in 1950.

Chapter 3

Administration

CONSIDERABLE modification to the administrative machinery of the Protectorate has resulted from the introduction of Federation in 1953, and the Federal Government has assumed responsibility for the following departments: Audit, Civil Aviation, Customs and Immigration, Income Tax, Posts and Telecommunications, Prisons, Medical, Non-African Primary and Secondary Education and all higher Education.

The Protectorate continues to be administered by the Governor, assisted by the Executive Council, which comprises the persons for the time being lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, Attorney General and Financial Secretary as *ex officio* members and such other persons, styled Nominated Members, as may from time to time be appointed by Royal Instructions or Warrants or by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions conveyed through the Secretary of State. Membership of Executive Council during 1955 is set out in an Appendix to this Chapter.

The laws of the Protectorate are made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, constituted by the Nyasaland Order in Council, 1907. The Legislative Council consists of the persons from time to time lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, Attorney General and Financial Secretary as *ex officio* members and such other persons, styled Official Members, holding office of emolument under the Crown in the Protectorate as may from time to time be appointed by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions, conveyed through the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and further such persons not holding office in the Protectorate as the Governor may similarly from time to time appoint and who are styled Unofficial Members. During 1955 there was no change in the membership of the Legislative Council which at the end of the year comprised the Governor as President, three *ex officio* Members, seven Official Members and ten Unofficial Members. The identity of the members of the Legislative Council during 1955 is given in an Appendix to this Chapter. In June, however, the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced a revised Constitution for Nyasaland, the Legislative Council to consist of the Governor as President, three *ex officio* Members, eight Official Members and 11 Unofficial Members. In September the Legislative Council Ordinance was enacted, to provide for the election of the Unofficial members for the Legislative Council. The first elections under the new Constitution will take place in March, 1956.

Since the coming into force of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (Constitution) Order in Council, 1953, the Protectorate has formed part of the Federation and the Federal legislature has enacted legislation on a number of subjects formerly within the powers of the Nyasaland Legislative Council.

The judicial system is described in Part II Chapter 9 of this Report.

The principal territorial departments of Government apart from the Provincial and District Administration are: Judicial, Legal, Agriculture, Public Works, Education, Police, Geological Survey, Labour, Veterinary, Forestry, Lands, Printing and Stationery, Co-operative Development, Game, Fish and Tsetse Control, Accountant General and Surveys.

The policy of the Government is defined and controlled in the Secretariat. The Chief Secretary is the channel of communication between Government on the one hand and heads of departments and the general public on the other. He is the head of the Civil Service.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces, Northern, Central and Southern, each in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner, who is responsible to the Governor for the administration of his Province. The Provinces are divided into 18 Districts, each in charge of a District Commissioner, who in turn is responsible to the Provincial Commissioner. Provincial Commissioners and District Officers are responsible for the proper conduct of the Native Administrations within their areas. Each of the districts contains one or more Native Authorities constituted as such under the Native Authority Ordinance, 1955. The size of the various Native Authorities' areas varies considerably and is dependent generally on the degree of tribal feeling and homogeneity which remained at the time of the introduction of the first Native Authority Ordinance in 1933. The largest population administered by any single Native Authority is 170,000 under Chief M'mbelwa of Mzimba; the smallest is the 250 of Chief Mbwana of the Nkata Bay District. The number of Native Authorities in each of the Provinces varies from 16 in the Northern Province to 42 in the Central Province and 64 in the Southern Province, a total of 122.

Following the enactment of the Local Government (District Council) Ordinance, No. 48 of 1953, a number of statutory District Councils have been established throughout the Protectorate. These Councils are constituted by Warrant and are multi-racial in composition. There is provision in the Ordinance for the appointment or election of members.

Chiefs have been accorded seats on the Councils so established and the tribal element in local government has not therefore been disregarded. The powers and duties of the new Councils are extensive and include control of the finances of the Council, the levying of

rates, taxes and cesses and the power to make by-laws on subjects connected with administration, social affairs, agriculture, education, finance, forestry, land, staff pensions, veterinary services and water supplies.

The new Councils have therefore taken over in large measure the present financial and legislative responsibilities of the Native Authorities, and with the additional and extensive powers conferred on them by the Ordinance will, it is hoped, provide a firm foundation for the future local government of the territory.

The first statutory District Council to be established under the Ordinance was that of Cholo, in the Southern Province. This Council consists of a Chairman and 20 Councillors, of whom 12 are Africans, six Europeans and two Asians. Of the African Councillors, six are elected, the remaining Councillors being nominated.

Statutory Councils have also been established in the Ncheu, Dedza and Lilongwe Districts of the Central Province, in the Rumpi, Karonga and Nkata Bay Districts of the Northern Province, and in the Zomba, Mlanje and Blantyre Districts of the Southern Province. Various by-laws were passed, or were under consideration by these Councils during the year.

In those remaining eight districts of the Protectorate, where statutory District Councils have not as yet been established, non-statutory District Councils continue to operate satisfactorily. These Councils will change their form as and when development in a district is sufficiently advanced, and the necessary staff and potential members are available for the running of a statutory Council. Transition will be gradual over the years.

The greater part of the Protectorate consists of African areas, and administration through the Native Authorities is broadly speaking the same in all districts, whether under the control of a statutory District Council or not.

A "Native Authority" means any Chief or other African or any African Council or group of Africans declared to be or established as a Native Authority under the Native Authority Ordinance for the area concerned. The Government usually recognizes as Chief the person accepted by the people. There always has been and still is a very real regard on the part of the Africans for the state of chieftainship; nor is this regard confined to the illiterate or semi-educated inhabitants of rural areas.

Local African custom does not recognize the Chief as having purely autocratic powers. The Chief is the figurehead and the embodiment of the Native Authority, but he and his council are inseparable. The tendency is towards the functioning of the Council of the Chieftdom as a minor local government unit and towards the strengthening of these Councils by making them more fully representative of all sections

of the African community and by including, in particular, the more progressive and educated elements.

Appointments to these Councils are more elastic than those to the Chieftainship itself; Councillors are not necessarily hereditary and appointment depends in many cases upon public opinion. In some cases the composition of the Council is still largely determined by established native custom; in many others the customary practice has been modified to allow a broader basis of representation and expression of opinion. Formal recognition as a member of a Native Authority Council ultimately rests with the Provincial Commissioner concerned.

The Governor has power to withdraw recognition of a person as a Native Authority or as a member of a Native Authority and a Provincial Commissioner can also exercise powers of suspension for three months or, with the Governor's approval, for one year in cases involving abuse of power, or for incapacity or other sufficient reason.

Below the Native Authority Council there are in many districts subordinate councils which include Group and Village Councils. The Village Headman still remains an important unit of the native administration. In some cases these Headmen derive their influence from actual or traditional inheritance of the powers exercised by family heads or recognized administrators of the land. In others they owe their authority to the position given to them by the administration. Apart from their traditional functions of settling minor village disputes, the Village Headmen have a number of statutory duties to perform which include duties in connection with tax registration and vital statistics. It is clear that the Village Headman must continue to perform his function as a direct link between the ordinary villager and his Chief as well as the District Commissioner.

Native Authorities have four inter-related responsibilities—executive, legislative, judicial and financial. In districts where statutory Councils have been formed certain of these powers now devolve upon the Council but the Native Authority continues to operate as a subsidiary organ of local government, collecting revenue, enforcing by-laws and generally preserving law and order in his own area.

Executive responsibility is vested in Native Authorities by the Native Authority Ordinance (Ordinance 13 of 1955), supplemented in some cases by the delegation of powers under those laws of Nyasaland, such as the Game and Forestry Laws, which largely concern Africans. Under the Ordinance, Native Authorities are empowered to issue orders "subject to the provisions of any law or Ordinance for the time being in force and to the general or special directions of the Governor." Within the area over which the Native Authority has jurisdiction these orders may relate to a number of subjects, such as control of intoxicating liquor and gambling, public health, migration, reporting of births and deaths and the movement and control of livestock. They may, in fact, relate to the prohibition, restriction or execution of any matter

which is not repugnant to morality or justice, and is in accordance with the native law and custom for the time being in force.

The prior approval of Government for the issue of orders is not required, but they must be reported at the earliest possible moment to the District Council or superior Native Authority, if any, and to the District Commissioner. The Provincial Commissioner has power to revoke orders if necessary. An offence against an order is punishable by a fine not exceeding £25 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or by both such fine and imprisonment. With few exceptions Native Authorities have issued orders on their own initiative and most of these orders are eminently sensible and have required little amendment or revision.

Legislative responsibility is vested in a Native Authority under section 20 of the Native Authority Ordinance which empowers it, subject to the provisions of any Law or Ordinance for the time being in force and to the approval of the Governor, "to make rules to be obeyed by Africans within the local limits of its jurisdiction providing for the peace, good order and welfare of such Africans." Such rules may make provision for the imposition of fees and, when passed, have the authority of Ordinances and may only be revoked with the consent of the Governor. Subject to the approval of the Governor a Provincial Commissioner or a District Commissioner may himself make rules for any of the purposes mentioned above in respect of the area of jurisdiction of any Native Authority in his Province or District and such rules have the same force and effect as if made by the Native Authority of the area. For breach of the rules, penalties may be imposed up to a fine of £50 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment. Rules made by the Native Authority may at any time be revoked by the Governor.

In districts where statutory District Councils have been established under Ordinance No. 48 of 1953, existing Native Authority rules are gradually being replaced by by-laws, made under section 30 of the Ordinance. This section provides that all by-laws made by a Council shall be submitted as soon as may be to the Provincial Commissioner, who shall in turn forward such by-laws together with his recommendations to the Governor in Council or to such committee as may be appointed by the Governor in Council in that behalf. The Governor in Council, or such a committee, in his, or its discretion, as the case may be, may approve or reject any by-law. Approved by-laws are enacted in English, and, after *Gazette* publication, are promulgated in the area under the jurisdiction of the Council down to the level of the Village Headman. Penalties for the contravention of by-laws may not exceed a fine of £50 or imprisonment for a term of six months or both such fine and imprisonment.

At the present stage of development, legislative or rule-making powers are still widely exercised by the Native Authorities. In almost every district rules have been made covering such subjects as African

canteens, teashops and the sale and consumption of native beer. The registration of marriages is covered by rules in all the Native Authority areas. Canoe rules, designed to control the cutting of trees suitable for the construction of canoes and to make provision for their licensing, have been made in areas adjoining Lake Nyasa and large rivers. Many rules to ensure proper agricultural practice, land usage and preparation of gardens are also in force.

The judicial and financial responsibilities of Native Authorities are dealt with in Part II, Chapters 9 and 3 respectively.

The association of Africans in the work of the Central Government in addition to the Local Government system described in previous paragraphs is being developed along two main lines—the inclusion of Africans on Government Committees and Boards and the Council System. Both Chiefs and African teachers are represented on District Education Committees and 10 Africans are included on the Protectorate Advisory Committee on African Education. In addition, Africans have been appointed to a number of statutory boards and committees such as the African Tobacco Board, the Produce Marketing Board, the Provincial Natural Resources Boards and others.

The council system has been developed with the aim of providing an unbroken ladder of councils from the Legislative Council at the top to village level at the bottom.

The Protectorate Council, under the chairmanship of the Secretary for African Affairs, consists of seven members from each Province. African members of Legislative Council who are not otherwise members of the Protectorate Council are *ex officio* members. Members hold office for two years and are eligible for reappointment. The Council is advisory and non-statutory.

African Provincial Councils are established in each of the three Provinces and sit twice yearly under the chairmanship of the Provincial Commissioners; these Councils are also advisory and non-statutory, but under the provisions of the Legislative Council Ordinance are now responsible for the election of African members to Legislative Council.

There is no fixed ratio between Chief and non-Chief members of Provincial Councils; in the Central Province the constitution is at present 14 Chiefs to 11 non-Chiefs; in the Southern Province the Council consists of 26 members of whom 16 are Chiefs; and in the Northern Province there are 13 Chiefs to 12 non-Chiefs.

A uniform method of allocating seats to Provincial Councils was introduced in all Provinces a few years ago. A block quota of seats is allocated to each district and nominations to these are made by District Councils or other local government equivalents from among and by the delegates at the meetings of these Councils. The appointments are finally approved by the Governor.

The reconstitution of Provincial Councils was carried out in 1950 in order to encourage the representative expression of African opinion and to obtain equal opportunity of representation by hereditary dignitaries and others while retaining as far as possible the indigenous tribal structure of administration at Native Authority level and below. That the first of these objectives is being achieved is shown by the greatly improved standard of debate in all three Provincial Councils since the re-constitution took place.

Considerable latitude is allowed in discussions and subjects may be introduced either by the Central Government, Provincial or District Councils or by the individual members themselves. In the case of Group and Village Councils, as a rule anyone who is by native custom entitled to speak is allowed to do so.

The townships of Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba, Lilongwe and Salima are administered in their domestic affairs by town councils which, in the two former cases, are elected by the ratepayers and in the three latter, are nominated by the Governor. One African, representing the African Civil Servants' Association, is appointed a member of the Zomba Town Council.

African urban advisory committees have been established at Blantyre/Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe and advise the town councils on matters appertaining to the African urban population.

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1955

President:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir Geoffrey Colby, K.C.M.G.).

Ex-Officio Members:—

THE HON. THE CHIEF SECRETARY (C. F. W. Footman, Esq., C.M.G.)

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (J. B. Hobson, Esq., Q.C.)

THE HON. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (K. W. Simmonds, Esq.).

Official Members:—

THE HON. R. W. KETTLEWELL, C.M.G. (Director of Agriculture).

THE HON. J. H. INGHAM, M.B.E. (Secretary for African Affairs).

Unofficial Members:—

THE HON. L. J. RUMSEY

THE HON. A. C. W. DIXON.

NOTES:—

(1) THE HON. K. W. SIMMONDS occupied the post of Acting Chief Secretary during the absence on leave of the HON. C. W. F. FOOTMAN, C.M.G.

(2) THE HON. H. S. NORMAN WALKER occupied the post of Acting Financial Secretary during the absence on leave of the HON. C. W. F. FOOTMAN, C.M.G., and the consequent acting appointment of the HON. K. W. SIMMONDS.

(3) THE HON. A. C. W. DIXON was appointed an unofficial member in January in place of the HON. G. G. S. J. HADLOW, C.B.E.

MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1955

President:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir Geoffrey Colby, K.C.M.G.).

Ex-Officio Members:—

THE HON. THE CHIEF SECRETARY (C. W. F. Footman, Esq., C.M.G.)

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (J. B. Hobson, Esq., Q.C.)

THE HON. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (K. W. Simmonds, Esq.).

Official Members:—

THE HON. C. H. F. APTHORP, M.V.O. (Commissioner of Police)

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THE HON. H. H. ARMSTRONG (Commissioner for Labour)

THE HON. P. W. YOUENS (Deputy Chief Secretary)

THE HON. J. H. INGHAM, M.B.E. (Secretary for African Affairs).

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THE HON. M. H. BLACKWOOD

THE HON. S. KUMAKANGA

THE HON. F. G. COLLINS

THE HON. A. S. SACRANIE.

NOTES:—

(1) THE HON. K. W. SIMMONDS occupied the post of Acting Chief Secretary during the absence on leave of the HON. C. W. F. FOOTMAN, C.M.G.

(2) THE HON. H. S. NORMAN WALKER occupied the post of Acting Financial Secretary during the period when the HON. K. W. SIMMONDS was Acting Chief Secretary.

(3) THE HON. A. S. S. SACRANIE replaced the HON. P. DAYARAM in June following the latter's resignation in March.

(4) THE HON. J. H. INGHAM, M.B.E., replaced the HON. H. F. BINGHAM, O.B.E., in April.

(5) THE HON. R. M. M. KING replaced the HON. H. H. ARMSTRONG during the latter's absence on sick leave in May.

(6) THE HON. E. WILLIAMS replaced the HON. R. W. KETTLEWELL, C.M.G., during the latter's absence on leave.

(7) THE HON. C. A. COLLARD, M.B.E., T.D., replaced the HON. H. H. ARMSTRONG in December during the latter's absence on leave pending retirement.

Chapter 4

Weights and Measures

STANDARD British weights and measures are in use throughout the Protectorate.

Chapter 5

Reading List

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